
Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 26-03-2008 18:32

Let's carry on here...

It seems the dates of the final might change if Zurich Lions do qualify for it as the daft buggers have rented out their ice-rink on the 1-3 April, with game 2 taking place on the 2nd...If they win the series this thursday, game 1 of the final will be on saturday rather than next tuesday which is fine by McSorley at GSHC, less time faffing around for GSHC and Zurich will have only a day rest.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 26-03-2008 18:38

In New York, it was traditionally the circus that caused these issues.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 26-03-2008 21:01

I'll link to the old thread as soon as OTF is back on line, it will be a shame to miss on that discussion for anyone who arrives here.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 27-03-2008 21:27

Well, that's it, Zurich have beaten Davos 4-2 in the series and from saturday onwards it's Geneve/Servette-Zurich Lions to slug it out for the title.

The last series will concerne LNB champions Bienne who will play Basel to decide who plays in the LNA next season.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-03-2008 12:03

Milan Vipers are out of the Italian playoffs, going down to Bolzano Foxes in four games.

Fassa and Ritten Sport are tied 2-2 in the other semi.

In Russia, ursus family favourites Lokomotiv Yaroslavl are a game away from putting out reigning Russian and European champions Metallurg Magnitogorsk. AK Bars Kazan lead the other semi-final 2-1 over regular season leaders Salavat Yulaev Ufa.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 29-03-2008 21:40

At the beginning to the season, French international Laurent Meunier was offered a "5th foreigner" contract, he would be the spare part player playing only when one of Kolnik/Law/Vigier/Aubin was not available. He was even farmed out for a short while to Lausanne in LNB. A modest, hard working player, he took it on the chin and it paid off big time. French players have zero reputation in Switzerland or had as since Meunier has arrived, he has been the best advert you can imagine for French hockey. Going from the French league to the Swiss league is like going from League One to the Premiership top half and French hockey fans are very proud of him.

He gave us the win in game 1 of the semis by scoring the 4-3 a minute before the end and right now he's done it again, scoring the 4-3 in OT against Zurich to give us the win and lead 1-0 in the Final series. We conceded two deeply stupid goals in this game, particularly the 3-2 when we were cruising to victory 7 minutes before the end. I hope this will be a "lessons learned"...Big game of Vigier today, he has not been at his best during the regular season but he seems to have clicked. Law is the one on the bench at the moment, eventhough he had some really good games during the semis. It's tough at the top...

So...LNA Playoffs Final GSHC-Zurich Lions 1-0

Get the fuck in!

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 30-03-2008 00:29

Video of tonight's game, click on the lens below the video to have a big screen version.

<http://www.sf.tv/sfsport/artikel.php?catid=sporteishockeyartikel&docid=20080329-02>

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 30-03-2008 18:32

As usual, you can go on the GSHC website and watch videos of the games on GSHC TV, use lurker/lurker as a login/pwd. The first installement of "Aux coeurs des playoffs" for the final does indeed rock and there are some good crowd shots including the superb balloons/banner tifo of the ultras at the start of the game.

www.gshc.ch

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 31-03-2008 21:02

Oh my God, we won 4-2 away to Zurich, 2-0 in the series...2 wins away from our first title...gaaaah!

More details later...

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 04-04-2008 03:30

The Caps are on the brink of one of the most amazing season resurrections ever. They've won 17 of their last 20 and 6 in a row. They've got one more to go on Saturday. I think that if they win (it's the Panthers, in Washington, so their chances are good), they'll probably make the playoffs, but it's not a certainty. Somebody else has to lose. They've got 92 points and are currently 8th in the east. Ottawa and Boston have 92 with a game in hand. Philly has 91 points with a game in hand.

They're level with Carolina, but Carolina has the tie-breaker. Catching Carolina would be sweet, because then they'll not only make the playoffs, but win the division and get the #3 seed.

If they get in and Ottawa drops out, it would mark perhaps the most remarkable rise in conjunction with a remarkable collapse in NHL history.

When they changed coaches at Thanksgiving, they were 6-14-1 and widely considered the worst team in the league. On Jan 1. they were 16-19-5 and still pretty bad. Now they're 42-31-8. So that means under Bruce Boudreau, they're 36-17-

7. So they went from a .286 winning percentage to .600.

It's so agonizingly close, I can barely stand to watch. Unfortunately, Saturday is also the home opener for DC United. Those tickets are a lot cheaper, so I'm going to that, but I'll be checking the Caps score on my mobile during the match. If they make the playoffs, I'll find a way to get to at least one game, even though I can't afford it.

They've got real atmosphere and crowd excitement going on down there for the first time in about 10 years. Attendance started to surge the day they signed Alex Ovechkin to a long term deal and demand has picked up as they keep winning and Ovechkin continues to score.

It would be a real loss if they don't make it. They've got more "buzz" going right now than any other team in town. The Wizards are fading, all of the college b-ball teams are out of the tournament, baseball is just starting and the Redskins are, for a change, not doing anything in the off season. This is a chance to get new fans into it. Sports radio guys who know nothing about hockey are jumping on the bandwagon.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 04-04-2008 09:43

Sounds like it's the same in Washington as it is in Geneva...

Anyhow, first home defeat in the playoffs for us yesterday, Zurich winning 3-2 and the series is now 2-1 for us, with game 4 on saturday, in Zurich, it suddenly got a lot harder but the Lions are another proposition than Lakers or Fribourg...

Interesting news in the LNA/LNB playoff, Bienne leads 2-0 in the series against Basel, after starting with a win away to Basel and an easy home win yesterday. It's looking good for some change in the top division...

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 04-04-2008 10:38

Ah well, a sweep was never likely. And Basel have no business being in LNA on this season's form; it would be good to have another Francophone club in the league.

In Russia, Lokomotiv Yaroslavl won the first match of the best of 5 final away to Salavat Yulaev Ufa, continuing their impressive playoff form.

The best of seven finals in Finland between Espoo Blues and Karpat begin this weekend, which I'm sure has Muuk on the edge of his seat.

The Czech Republic is at the same stage, with the final between Karlovy Vary and Slavia (does Janik care about hockey?)

Ritten Sport won the first match of the Italian finals against Bolzano/Bozen, but virtually no one whose first language isn't German cares anymore.

As speaking of Germany; they are at the semifinal stage, with Eisbaren Berlin 1-0 up on DEG (Duesseldorf) Metro Stars) and Frankfurt Lions and Koelner Haie (Sharks) tied 1-1.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 04-04-2008 11:19

Indeed ursus, my team versus my most loathed team is a final I won't be looking forward to losing. Let's see how many fans Blues bring with them this time; they managed one car load during last season's play offs. Quite impressive in the wrong direction for a city of more than 200000. I did actually write a rather barbed piece earlier today about their unwelcome ascent, but on trying to post it it somehow got lost and I got logged out. Seems like the new server is rather more discerning than the old one...

I'm also keeping an eye on events to the east, since Lokomotiv Yaroslavl's coach these days is Kari Heikkilä, one of the chief architects of Kärpät's rise to power.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 04-04-2008 14:31

It's because the Caps went back with the old unis. The Caps are red, should've always been red, and are wearing the same colors as Pete Peeters, Dale Hunter, and that oldschool lot that would give anyone a game, anytime, anywhere.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 04-04-2008 17:08

I prefer the swooping eagle logo, but I agree that the red works much better than either the black or the blue they had before. It really looks good on tv, especially paired with the dark blue on the trim, helmets and pants. They're getting the fans into the "Red Out," which also looks impressive on tv - not quite as impressive as Calgary's total red wash - but better than it has in years past.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 04-04-2008 18:30

The Canucks season finally collapsed like a wet paper bag last night. They were dreadful, looked totally Canackered, as indeed they had done for several weeks. Those of us who actually watch them never bought into the the pre-season posturing about immanent Stanley Cups but the sudden decline was, nonetheless, surprising. Roberto Luongo, on whom the team leaned for all of last year and half of this turned out to be mortal after all. The word is his wife's difficult pregnancy with their first child may have affected his concentration. Whatever. The bugger needs to get his priorities in order and soon. A few sessions in the off-season on Parenting for Goalies with Patrick Roy is in order for Big Lou.

As for our other superstars? Well it's been nice Nazyzy but ta ta. Actually it hasn't been all that nice really. Though he's treated like Jean Beliveau in this town the Swede Without a Smile only really produced to his salary level when he played with Todd Bertuzzi. And his limitations as team captain are indicated by the failure to rally his team, or even his linemates, over the past month. With the money he costs the club, they ought to be able to find someone who can score more than 25-30 goals a season. Whether Nonis has the bottle to kiss him goodbye or not is the question. Doing so is going to be his first really hard decision as GM. The Sedins? Well if you put their stats together they make one decent first line forward. They're not exactly a liability but nor are they going to bring the 'Nucks the the Big Silver Bowl, at least not by themselves. They always run out of gas by the middle of March too, and its hard to see how that's going to change.

Silver linings? A few. Lots of good young kids, Alex Burrows, Alex Edler, Ryan Shannon, Byron Ritchie and Ryan Kesler and others are all in the their first or second season and promise a good deal. Trevor Linden at 38 has probably just played his last game, but somehow the club needs to keep him around. He scored two goals last weekend to lead the club over Calgary — who are currently just as bad as Vancouver. His ability to communicate urgency and desire are sorely needed.

Vigneault is doing the best he can with what he he has. The hard truth is that the top two lines need a radical overhaul. Legions of the long-suffering wait with breath suitably bated.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 04-04-2008 21:03

I can't help but think that it would have all turned out different if they had just kept "Vancouver" off the sweaters.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 05-04-2008 12:43

Well, it's back to business tonight. After thursday mediocre performance and home defeat, the "Eagles" are going to the "Lions" den for revenge. Vigier is apparently out injured for th rest of the series but Aubin has not been banned (head check on thursday but the judge has been lenient to him and to the Zurich player who injured Vigier, both players are very important to their team...) and he will play again with his favourite partner, Kirby Law.

Another excellent article in Le Temps, this time about Igor Fedulov, 42 this July and currently our best scorer and with the most assist in the playoffs (all teams). A quiet, talented man whose hockey education is of the old Soviet school, who loves the game, manipulating the puck and, above everything, deliver the killer pass. The kind of man who will remain at the club once he stopped playing, the young players worship him and the juniors would benefit immensely from his experience.

Le Temps

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 05-04-2008 16:36

After being the worst team in the league last year, the Briere-less Flyers improbably clinched a spot last night, beating the Devils and Flyer-killer/demi-god Brodeur 3-0 while Carolina lost to Florida.

My main hope now is that the Caps win/tie and the Bruins lose tonight and the Flyers beat the Penguins tomorrow. If everything falls into line, I can hopefully catch a Flyers/Caps playoff game in DC.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 05-04-2008 17:28

Gyuri, are you new ? Because the only other Flyers fans I know are coffy or D-Kev, and that makes this board 2 over the allowed quota of Philly Phans as it stands.

Diablos Por Vida

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 05-04-2008 18:15

Yep, I'm new (though I lurked on the old board since 2002) and a Flyers fan. Worse, for me (and, I guess, for our relationship on the Sports board) is that I'm an Eagles fan. And a Phillies fan. And a Sixers fan. Sports life has not been kind to me since '83 ('85 if you count Villanova).

If it makes me better accepted, I loathe the Rangers more than the Devils. Actually, I don't hate the Devils all that much (though I wish they stayed in Denver), as I've always respected Brodeur and have come to grips with the fact that the Flyers can't beat them when it matters. The 2000 Eastern Conference Finals still burns.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 05-04-2008 18:16

I can't help but think that it would have all turned out different if they had just kept "Vancouver" off the sweaters.

Well, on the bright side, I suppose this season's debacle will help make them less popular than they already were. I'm certain now that the "City on the Sweater" plague is being manufactured in the NHL's secret laboratory by Bettman's little flying monkeys. Presumably as a superfluous aid to brain-dead channel flippers in Miami Beach.

Is it time for predictions?

San Jose to win the West, especially if they avoid Anaheim.

Montréal takes the East.

Final: Habs win in seven

(outside shots: West: Minnesota. East: NY Rangers)

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 05-04-2008 22:58

Welcome, then. I'm not sure what Jason The Saint's name is now, but he's also Eagles and whatever the new MLS team is called.

In fact, Philly may be the most represented city on off, as terrifying that may be to anyone who doesn't like hot dog fights...

<http://deadspin.com/376178/the-usual-dash-of-dollar-dog-night-bacchanalia>

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 05-04-2008 23:15

But who doesn't like hot dog fights? Anyway, thanks for the welcome. I promise I've never once thrown a hot dog in anger, nor booed Santa Claus, nor got locked in the jail at the Vet. I may have thrown snowballs at the Cowboys bench, though.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 06-04-2008 01:20

Well hey, everyone except Mr. WindUpBird (our resident DallAssian) would approve of that.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 06-04-2008 02:40

Congratulations, Reed, on the Caps beating the Panthers to clinch the playoffs. Even better (for my hopes of the Flyers playing in DC), the Bruins lost to the Sabres, which means that the Flyers can get the sixth seed if they beat the Pens tomorrow.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 06-04-2008 06:28

It's very exciting. I haven't got my head around what a comeback they've made.

I'm actually hoping that we draw the Senators, because we seem to have their number this year and Flyers fans are far more obnoxious (present company excluded, of course) and likely to infiltrate Verizon Center.

I've already bought two tickets to the first game, although I don't know when it will be.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 06-04-2008 06:45

It is pretty damn exciting, I love going to playoff hockey games (I'm hoping my brother's firm is going to come through with tickets).

Flyers fans would definitely be more, um, full-throated, though I'm not sure that would be a bad thing. I haven't been to a Caps game since the lockout, but, before that, the Caps crowd was the worst hockey crowd I've ever seen (and I used to go to Florida Panthers games). It seemed that, at most, 1/4 of the crowd actually knew what was going on and was paying attention. The rest either seemed to be there on company tickets, or because they'd heard that Jagr was supposed to be important.

I wouldn't be surprised if things are better now, as this Caps team seems to have grabbed the district's imagination a bit (my nephew and all his friends watch the game regularly, whereas 3 years ago they mocked the idea of watching hockey), but a little Flyers-exuberance wouldn't hurt that much.

For the record, I've always thought that the Flyers were the best of all the Philadelphia fans. They were rowdy, but not close to as bad as Eagles fans, and they are fairly knowledgeable.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 06-04-2008 08:43

Gaaaah....Series now tied 2-2. Bloody Zurich beat us 3-2 in their manor, with a bit of luck apparently. Cunt of a ref did not stop play with one of our guys lying on the floor in a 5vs3 powerplay and they scored...Anyhow back to square one really, 3 games left, two at home. As usual videos available on the GSHC website.

In the LNA/LNB promotion/relegation series, it looks like the ghastly EHC Basel is about to bite the dust, with Bienne 3-0 up after winning their second away game of the series.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 06-04-2008 09:38

Jason the Saint is now just JtS.

You still have the upper hand, Y, all you need to do is win at home.

Karpat won the first match against Blues, and Ufa won at home to tie their series against Yaroslavl.

It's nice to see meaningful hockey games return to North America. I also am one of those who think that a Caps-Pens series in the first round would not be a good thing, better that they meet later.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 06-04-2008 20:39

It has gotten a lot better since then. I went to games during that era. It was pretty awful, especially after it became clear that Jagr wasn't the savior we had hoped for.

It should be noted, however, that the atmosphere at Wizards games in those years was even worse. As the area around Verizon Center develops, its become a more appealing destination for people who want to make an evening of it. I recall that when it first opened there was concern that suburbanites were afraid to venture into that area.

As soon as the Caps signed Ovechkin to a long-term deal earlier this year, attendance improved. And in the last week or so, attendance has been near 100%. The faith of the core fanbase has been fully restored and is beginning to attract new fans.

The problem is that the Caps core fanbase are mostly people who can't afford to go very often, like me, but also a lot of people who live further out in Prince William, Bowie, Frederick, etc. And because this is such a shitty sports town overall and attending a hockey game on freebies doesn't have the "cache" of the NFL, MLB or NBA, the lobbyist/corporate graft market isn't as strong.

Also, that middle level of club seats is always mostly empty because the Caps can't market those. They "belong" to Abe Pollin.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 06-04-2008 20:57

It has gotten a lot better since then. That's great to hear. You are also dead on about the Wizards fans, and how that has changed with the building out/gentrification of the Metro Center area (Gilbert Arenas probably deserves a little credit there, too).

I also agree about the general crappiness of the DC sports fan (at least of the non-Redskins variety), which is directly tied into the pricing out of the lower income-types, but made worse by the fact that corporate/rich folks are made up largely of transient DC-ers.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 06-04-2008 22:04

The "transient" aspect of Washington transcends sports. I think a lot of this city's problems are exacerbated because so many of the local residents - especially the ones with money and education - aren't from here and don't expect to be here very long so they don't really care about the long-term.

I'm the opposite, I don't really like Washington and want to leave, but as long as I'm here I'll support the local pro teams.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 06-04-2008 22:10

That's very true, and also happens to be true of Frankfurt (of all places). It is a malaise from which administrative capitals (be they political, economic, or both) that lack a deep history in their own right are more or less doomed to suffer from. I am pretty sure the same phenomenon exists in Canberra and Brasilia.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 07-04-2008 00:45

That's very true, and also happens to be true of Frankfurt (of all places). It is a malaise from which administrative capitals (be they political, economic, or both) that lack a deep history in their own right are more or less doomed to suffer from. Given that my last two homes have been Frankfurt and DC, I must really be drawn to transience-based malaise. And the minute I wrote that, I realized it was true.

I think a lot of this city's problems are exacerbated because so many of the local residents - especially the ones with money and education - aren't from here and don't expect to be here very long so they don't really care about the long-term. That's right. Additionally, a vast majority of those that work in the District, live in the MD and VA suburbs, and so a lot of the income generated in DC pays taxes outside of DC.

To bring it back to the topic of the thread, the Flyers beat the Penguins, thus ensuring Flyers/Caps games in DC.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 07-04-2008 00:59

Yes. I wish I knew when game 1 will be. I have tickets, but don't know when it will happen. Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. I hope Friday.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 07-04-2008 02:37

I'm actually hoping that we draw the Senators, because we seem to have their number this year

At the moment, Ottawa would struggle to beat the Ice Capades. They had a chance to trade for a non-cokehead goalie two months ago and chose not to do so. One reaps what one sows.

AdC: Montreal in 7? I didn't realize you were such a romantic.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 07-04-2008 02:54

I'm no Montréal fan, but they're finishing on a roll, have a goalie that flatters the ghost of Young Dryden, and, though we don't get to see much of them out here, don't seem to possess any obvious weaknesses.

Oh and, in matters of sport, I'll put my hand up to being a unapologetic romantic eight days out of seven.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 07-04-2008 04:01

Comcast showed the Pens-Flyers game on tv here in the DC area. Pittsburgh didn't look all that interested. Biron played well. That's not a good sign for the Caps.

A Pens-Flyers series would be interesting for Pennsylvanians, but Crosby vs. Ovechkin would be a good subplot too. Ottawa-Washington would have the "two capitals" subplot, which isn't really all that interesting.

Devils-Rangers in the first round should be spirited and of course the Bruins-Habs evokes memories of series and Bruins' heartbreaks of a bygone era.

I hope Minnesota finds a way to win the West. The rest of those teams don't interest me, except maybe Calgary. Pity that Chicago didn't make it. They have some exciting young players and it would be good to see Chicago fans back in the mix.

One good thing about expansion (perhaps the only good thing) is that it seems like now that it's proportionately harder to make it into the playoffs, that every team in it is pretty respectable and has a chance to score an upset or two if their goalie plays well.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 07-04-2008 06:49

Three point games are even more responsible for that.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 07-04-2008 16:53

I made my first edit on Wikipedia because of this thread. I was looking up Earl Campbell, the great running back of the Houston Oilers and University of Texas.

One asswipe actually put that his son Tyler currently plays hockey for the Detroit Red Wings. I was flabbergasted, gobsmacked, and amazed at this, (I mean, the greatest hero of Texas Football having a Texan son who would be great at hockey...I mean how did he get introduced to the sport ? How did Earl manage to get around the hockey arena on his crutches and wheelchair from the pounding he took as a running back ? Did his son use his powerful legs to win faceoffs and forecheck people through the boards ? etc.)

So I immediately went to verify this incredible fact by looking up the Detroit Red Wings, and there was no Tyler Campbell. Then I googled his name, and he's playing football at San Diego State University. Too bad, because that would've been a hell of a story.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 07-04-2008 17:17

Some conspiracy theorists are having a field day at the moment on the GSHC forum. Saturday, Sepp Blatter was there to watch the game with the owner of Zurich Lions (rich right-wing politician...) and during the game the ref caused some tensions with the GSHC coach. At the end of the game, McSorley went straight to the ref changing room where he found the ref supervisor, the Lions chairman, Sepp Blatter and a few assorted minions all having a nice chat. After telling the Lions chairman to fuck off (he also refused to allow the team back on the ice after the game), CMS had a ding-dong with the ref supervisor. Surprise, today apparently our main defender, captain Goran Bezina, is under scrutiny and risking a suspension.

Byzantine I tell thee...

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 07-04-2008 17:21

If Jack Warner turns up at Game 5, then you know you're screwed.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 07-04-2008 21:03

Fantastic, another post gone missing and another automatic logging out. I didn't even write anything offensive about Erkki Rajamäki for heaven's sake. Let's try again...

We've just scraped past Blues, 1-2 in Espoo, in the second game of the final, to lead 2-0 in games. In all honesty and given Blues' dominance, we should've lost. Antti Ylönen won us the game in the second period of extra time with, I think, his first ever play off goal. For sure, he rarely scores. Least happy person about that goal must be Bernd Bruckler. An otherwise excellent game, he completely bungled a straightforward shot from the blue line -- first man in, clear sight of the puck the whole journey -- and could only turn round and watch as the puck rolled slowly over the line. Almost felt sorry for him, and there haven't been too many Blues players over the years I could write that about. The next game's in

our shed on Wednesday.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 07-04-2008 21:43

Excellent news.

Try clicking the "remember me" box next to the login; the time out is set for 10 minutes (ridiculously short for OTF, but apparently hard to change), but it shouldn't happen if you have that box checked. Very much second best workaround is to draft long posts in Word (or something else) and then cut and paste.

The admins are working on the issue.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Bombanero - 07-04-2008 21:52

I thought the Espoo penalties were a bit fucking violent, tbh. Those high checks and the guy that got stretchered off (interesting to watch from a technical perspective, never seen it done on ice before) ensured I was rooting for Kärpät.

I love the way they just keep playing as well, another half got played tonight.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 08-04-2008 07:39

Thanks for the tip ursus, I hadn't realised there was a 10 minute limit.

I didn't see Heiskanen's taking out of Juho Jokinen (Jussi Jokinen's not so little little brother), but Kähkönen's flattening of Ilkka Mikkola was an absolute disgrace. Euphemistically termed "completing the check", it involved hitting the opponent from behind an age after he's passed the puck so that he smacks his head into the plexi.

It turns out to be Antti Ylönen's first ever league goal. He was the 7th defender last night and barely saw the ice until Mikkola's injury (which seems to be not too bad, fortunately) at the end of the first period of extra time. A certain amount of poetic justice there, and to make matters worse for Blues he was basically getting rid of the puck so we could change.

Just seen the stats for the game and couldn't believe as many as 10 minutes of the second period of extra time were used. I'd've put it at 3 or 4. Also of note is Tuomas Tarkki's figures: 55 saves represents a busy night.

Hah, and we actually won a game that Timo Favorin was reffing...

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 08-04-2008 22:27

Gah...You lead during the whole game and you concede an equaliser less than one minute before the end then you lose on penalties...

Zurich leads 3-2 in the series, back on the ice on thursday, in Zurich to see them complete their turnaround and win the playoffs...

In the LNA/LNB playoffs, Bienne has won the series 4-0 against Basel and come back in the top division.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 09-04-2008 03:37

Hey 18CTRE, all you're saying is the pressure's on them. You got 'em right where you want 'em. Nothing's harder than closing out a series.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 09-04-2008 10:26

That's my view this morning JV, nothing to lose now, they'll be at home and they know if the screw up, it's back to our place. I listened to the game on radio and the rink was on fire, shame our boys did not capitalise on it...

Next season we need to work on realising our chances, we hit the woodwork three times yesterday, once straight after going 2-0 up and once in sudden death OT...

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 09-04-2008 14:11

You're basically saying you need the Swiss Claude Lemieux.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 09-04-2008 14:44

Yeah, we do have an Arsenal syndrome, lovely approach play, intricate passing and when we pull it off, we score stunning goals but sometimes I just feel like shouting "SHHHHHHOOOOOT AT GOAL!"...

One interesting thing during the playoffs, in the semis our opponents had the son of Slava Bykov in their rank and our current opponents in the final have the son of THE Krutov (you know, KLM, Soviet Union, etc).

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 09-04-2008 20:04

Kärpät 2-3 Blues, now it's 2-1 in games. What to say other than we got what we deserved. In the first two games we defended narrow leads, but today our negativeness caught up with us. Blues were all over us for the first 5 minutes so, naturally, Tommi Paakkalonvaara put us in the lead in our first proper attack. Jonas Andersson added an individual effort later in the period, but we frittered away the lead through sheer passiveness. Why the hell we're playing like this I've no idea. It's nothing like our normal game and it's boring me rigid. Janne Pesonen made the comment during a between periods interview that Blues weren't letting us play the game we wanted. Well yeah, I don't imagine they would do but it doesn't explain why we loaf around the half-way line while they bring the puck out at their leisure. Blues pulled a goal back at the start of the second period and then equalised on the power play in the third. By this time our game had reached such a state that I was actually willing the puck in the net. Extra time was so one-sided as to be close to a joke. We had 3 or 4 consecutive shifts who spent practically the whole time behind our own blue line. Almost the whole team needs a bloody good kicking up the arse.

Not the goalie though. Both had a really good game tonight, but Tuomas Tarkki was outstanding. He made any number of high quality saves, several times stopping an all alone attacker, one save he made with the back of his neck, and his stop from Ryan Keller 15 seconds from full time has to be seen to be believed.

So, a home defeat to the world record speeding fine's other hobby. It had better wake us up.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 10-04-2008 03:22

The Playoffs start TONIGHT!!!

Pens smoke Ottawa 4-0. I really wish the Caps could have drawn Ottawa.

The Flames are off to a great start in San Jose. Up 2-0 with just over 5 minutes gone in the first.

Rangers win at New Jersey, that's a big win for them.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 10-04-2008 13:10

Muuk, I don't if you followed my updates but your last comment has a rather uncanny similiarity to the ways things have panned out for us...

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 10-04-2008 13:38

Indeed I have been and precisely the same thing occurred to me. Let's see what our tactics are tonight.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 10-04-2008 20:33

Woke us up, it did. Blues 0-4 Kärpät, a scoreline that's a bit hard on Blues but there's no denying the better team won. Blues have played the last two games very much to a formula, and when we challenged it and more or less stopped it today, they had no plan B. They started brightly again, carved us apart a few times, but were foiled either by the yet again excellent Tuomas Tarkki or by their own failure to hit the target. Slowly but surely we weathered the storm and then started to assert ourselves, and by the end of the first period we were in the ascendancy. The second period was pretty much one way traffic, but despite shot figures of 3-19, we had just a Tommi Paakkolanvaara goal to show for all our dominance. Blues pulled themselves together at the start of the third period and created a number of good chances. The best of these, fortunately from our perspective, fell to Terry Fuckwit who plastered the puck against the post with Tarkki well beaten. Had it gone in etc. etc, instead Paakkolanvaara added a second which the referee eventually got round to noticing and then passed it on to the video judge to sort out how the puck got into the net. No-one knows for certain, is the answer. Less than 30 seconds later Hannes Hyvönen made it 0-3, and then shortly after that Jonas Andersson completed the scoring with another skilful individual effort.

Blues' old defensive frailties came back to haunt them today. Three of the four goals were scored by the attacker getting goal side of the defender, and the defender simply not responding either quickly enough or vigorously enough or both. All goals were scored from within 2 metres of the goal.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 10-04-2008 20:38

Well done, Muuk.

Russia will go to a decisive fifth game after Lokomotiv Yaroslavl beat Salavat Ufa 1-0 in Yaroslavl last night. The decider will be in Ufa tomorrow night.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 10-04-2008 22:37

Another ultra-tense and tight game, ended 1-1 after OT but 1-0 for the Lions on penalties which means that congrats are in order to them for the Swiss champions title.

On the whole they deserve it, more talented players, more experience and to win a series 4-2 after being led 2-0 shows they had bigger balls than us. That said, you could quite easily invert the results, both teams were neck on neck during all 6 games.

A great season anyway, there has been a huge wave of enthusiasm for the club in Geneva which will mean more sponsorship money and more chances to build an even better team (right now we have a tiny budget of 8.5m CHF by Swiss league standards) and we have a top quality team on and off the ice running this club.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 11-04-2008 10:05

Helas.

Condolences, 1890. Still a season to be cherished for all of the reasons you mention. The future should be bright, even if it is grenat.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 12-04-2008 00:12

I just turned on the Flyers/Caps game, and it looks like Reed was right about the crowd. They are loud, and almost all dressed in red. Pretty impressive.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 12-04-2008 00:15

And the Caps go up 1-0 as a power play was ending 3 minutes in. Maybe I'm glad I won't be able to watch much more of this.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 12-04-2008 05:35

It was the best hockey game I've been to since I saw Minnesota beat North Dakota in dramatic fashion in the WCHA final in St. Paul a few years ago.

Everyone was in red. My friend who came with me, former otter titianblonde, said she owned nothing red, so I brought her one of my Caps shirts. I wore my 1979 Caps throwback sweater.

There was so much pent up frustration being expressed by that crowd, a fierce determination not to let another team displace us in our home building. I didn't know the Caps had that many fans, but they were all there. There were a few Flyers fans, but no more than the Senators probably could have brought and every attempt they made to cheer was immediately drowned out by C-A-P-S, Caps, Caps, Caps! or Let's Go Caps, or M-V-P. We don't have very good cheers, it must be said.

It looked pretty grim in the second period. The Caps just went to sleep and the Flyers had acres of ice to work with and went down 4-2. But whatever they talked about in the locker room worked for the Caps, because they came out on fire and got the fans back into it. The Flyers contained Ovechkin pretty well for two periods (although that opened up ice for other people like Mike Green) but he was possessed in the third. The game winning goal was unbelievable. I have had to watch the replay several times to understand it.

See here, <http://scores.espn.go.com/nhl/recap?gameId=280411023>
or here,
<http://www.nhl.tv/team/console.jsp?hlg=20072008,3,131>

Their tying goal was a bit lucky. While trying to kill a penalty, the Flyer's Patrick Thoresen took Mike Green's slap shot right in the nads. Literally. The report is that he may need surgery to remove one of his testicles. So he was down on the ice while play continued and the Caps scored on their next shot. I don't think Thoresen could have stopped that goal, but it was a judgement call by the ref to not blow the whistle.

After the game we went to CapCity Brewing because my recent experience there with Scotian suggested it would probably not be too crowded. The whole walk there, lots of people in the street cheering and honking horns. In the bar, people would spontaneously start cheering for the Caps just for the hell of it. It was like DC was a real hockey town.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 12-04-2008 14:19

Clearly not the result I was hoping for, and I'm worried for the series because Biron did not look comfortable in his first ever playoff game. That being said, I'm thoroughly jealous that you went to that game. I had to go out for the night when the game was 3-2, but even at that point, it was clear that it was an excellent game and that the crowd was electric.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 12-04-2008 17:39

Yeah, hard luck 1890 on the final result but well done anyway for such a good season.

The fifth game of our series has just finished, and a 5-1 home victory brings us our fifth championship. Blues led after the first period but then got swamped in the second. Final resistance was broken some 5 minutes from time when Michal Bros raced out of the bin and put into the empty net.

There'll be pandemonium in town tonight.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 12-04-2008 19:13

I find myself thinking about the Caps for the first time since 1998 or whenever it was they made the Stanley Cup finals. Game seemed exciting, and I guess the Alexi guy is probably good. He's no Rod Langway, though.

I am totally confused about something, though. I thought the Caps were in danger of not even making the playoffs. Then I looked at the seedings and they are number 3. Can someone explain this?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 12-04-2008 19:17

As the winner of a division, the Caps were guaranteed no worse than a third seed (which they received as the division winner with fewest points). If they had lost the division, then they would have ended up tied with the 7th and 8th seed

with 94 points. I'm not sure how the tie-breaker would have worked, but had they lost the division (which they won by only 1 game), they may have missed the playoffs.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 12-04-2008 19:21

Wow, so I take it the Patrick division (or whatever it's called now) sucked this year.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 12-04-2008 19:28

Very much so. Although the Caps record is misleading as to their recent quality as they've won 11 out of their last 12 (12 of 13 including last night).

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 12-04-2008 19:52

Yeah, I remember at the beginning of the season they were awful.

Their success is great and all, but I must say the most exciting thing to me is the fact that they seem to have gone back to their old shirts. Those sweaters with an eagle on them were bad.

Aw, now I am getting nostalgic for the days when I used to follow the Capitals. Remember in 93 or 94 when Dale Hunter leveled that guy (Pat Lafontaine, maybe?) after he was celebrating a goal? That was awesome.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 12-04-2008 19:57

That ('93/'94) was exactly the period when I lost touch with the NHL (actually, it was from 1990-1994). I had moved to Florida and it was hard to follow hockey before the Panthers started (1993). It, oddly, took playing a ton of NHLPA '94 on the Sega Genesis in college to bring me back to the game.

But, yeah, those red sweaters are beautiful, and it's nice to have them back.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 12-04-2008 20:01

It was actually Pierre Turgeon that Hunter decked (French names--all the same!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xte-Vtxg-m8>

Edit: it's pretty odd to think about how much hockey I watched back then. It truly did seem like the sport was going to break through on a national level in the early 1990s. I went to high school in rural Maryland, hardly a hockey hotbed, and suddenly NHL shirts were everywhere, and the Caps became part of our daily sports discussions.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 12-04-2008 20:03

The Patrick Division is no more. Now there are two conferences, East and West, and each has three divisions. The Caps are unfortunately in the Southeast Division with Carolina, Tampa Bay, Atlanta and Florida.

<http://www.nhl.com/nhl/app?service=page&page=StandingsPage&type=CON>

It's complex now that they have the shootout (retarded) and a team gets one point for an overtime or shootout loss, but winning in overtime or a shootout is worth 2 points, just like a regular win. So there are some "three-point" games. It's confusing.

The last weekend worked out such that for the Caps to get the 8th seed in the East, they needed to win their last two games and they needed either Boston or Philadelphia to lose. That didn't happen. However because the Hurricanes lost to the Panthers and then the Caps beat the Panthers, the Caps won the division and the Hurricanes are out of the playoffs. Had the Hurricanes won that game, they'd have won the division and the Caps would have missed out, I think. And yet, the Caps don't have the fewest points of teams in the East. They have 94 just like Boston and Ottawa. I'm pretty sure the Caps would have won the tie-breaker with Ottawa but not with Boston. And they have more points than anyone in the east that didn't make it, so they would have made the playoffs even without the questionable rule that gives division winners a top three seed.

Clear now?

As Gyuri points out, the Caps are the hottest team right now. The Caps have the best record in the last ten games of the year (9-1-0) and probably the best record for the last month of the season, although I can't confirm that. They went 13-4 since March 1 and have now won 8 in a row.

They were in such a tight fight to get to the playoffs because they were so terrible in the early season. In the first month or so they were the worst team in the league. They are the first team to go from 14th in the conference to make the playoffs.

I quite like the sweaters with the Eagle on them and I have one in my closet. I like the Eagle better than the current Capitals wordmark. But those black home jerseys they had with the stupid Capitol logo on them were awful.

But clearly the Red and Blue is better, especially the red sweaters.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 12-04-2008 20:11

Wait a minute. A "normal" victory gets you 2 points, but a victory in overtime gets you 3 points? Please tell me that's not true.

Edit: ok, no, I misread Reed's post.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 12-04-2008 20:13

I think what Reed means by "three-point games" is that in overtime, the winner gets 2 points and the loser gets 1 point.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 12-04-2008 20:15

Thanks, got it.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 12-04-2008 20:24

Yes, that's what I meant.

If they're going to insist on having a shootout. I think they should make it three points for a regulation win, two for an overtime win and one for an overtime loss. But that idea has been already floated and rejected for no particular reason.

NHL '94 created a lot of hockey fans. I was into hockey since I was young, but my brother never followed the NHL until he was at grad school at Syracuse and he and his two housemates/classmates (one from Texas and one from Southern California) had it on their Sega and played a lot. They were all NHL fans after that.

I had NHL 95 on the Sega. I usually played as the Maple Leafs because Doug Gilmour was excellent at the one-timer and I liked the Leafs back then for some reason.

I didn't become a Caps fan until 1997 when I moved here and decided I wanted to support a team I actually saw live. Prior to that I just rooted for Gretzky who had been my hero since I read an article about him in Boys Life when I was 7.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 12-04-2008 20:29

Soccer Scrimmage wrote:

A "normal" victory gets you 2 points, ...Ah, for whatever reason I had formed the impression that all NHL games are three pointers. Is there any pressure or talk of 3 points for a full time win?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 12-04-2008 20:33

Reed answering my question before I'd even asked it. We're moving into new territory here...

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 12-04-2008 21:46

Let me see what other questions I can try to answer before you ask:

Boston
1973
Chicago Blackhawks
42
Jay Silverheels

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 13-04-2008 02:34

That Dale Hunter cheapshot was awful because the Isles had enough emotion to knock out the 2-time champion Pens the next round, but really needed him against the Habs. That was the worst cheapshot I saw in my life (didn't see Bertuzzi's or Lemieux's or whomever else,) and Hunter really should've been axed for the season.

Obviously great player, however.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 13-04-2008 05:33

The season was over. As I recall, he was suspended for the first 30 or 40 games of the next season. I was anti-Caps after seeing that, until I ended up living here.

The Bertuzzi and McSorley hits were worse.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 13-04-2008 16:28

30 games is what I remember.

I have just learned the Caps have a player called Shaone Morrisonn. Gnarly naome duodde!

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 13-04-2008 16:44

Reed. If I am saying that the Isles were in the next round of the playoffs, and it's established that this was the playoffs, it's pretty much well established that I'm talking about the 1993-1994 seasons. While Hunter received the largest suspension of all-time at the time, it should've been for the entire season.

Bertuzzi's was more devastating, but Hunter's was as low as it gets.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 13-04-2008 19:20

Hunter pushed the guy in the back when he was vulnerable. He didn't deliberately go after his head and Hunter's was more of a crime of frustration (the Isles had just eliminated the Caps). Bertuzzi's and McSorley's were premeditated, First Degree Goonery as opposed to Second Degree.

Thirty games is more than one third of a season. It's a lot. I think a full season would have been fair and I wouldn't mind seeing those sorts of serious penalties applied in these cases but I don't think the players union would let it happen and I don't think the owners would have the stones to do it. It would set a difficult precedent for them. They wouldn't want to have to suspend a valuable player for a full season.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 13-04-2008 20:32

Who is the jackass NBC commentator that just said that "half" the fans in the arena are Flyers fans? Is he at the game? At most its 5%.

Unfortunately for the Caps, and fortunately for Philadelphia, the Flyers haven't really bought into the conventional wisdom that they should try to physically intimidate the Caps. The Flyers are winning because they're just faster and better at passing and shooting and boring fundamentals like that.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 13-04-2008 20:38

For some reason, I'm not comfortable with a two goal lead going into the 3rd period. The Caps have had some great opportunities on the power play, and it's just a matter of time before they start to go in.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 13-04-2008 21:32

Reed, I agree that the NBC announcer must have been either colorblind and deaf or on crack, as it was clear that the stadium was awash in red (not orange) and the noise seemed to be from Caps fans.

The Flyers played very well today, especially at even strength, and Biron bounced back from the disaster in game 1. At least this thing will come back to DC, where I can hopefully catch game 5 (if my brother's connections for tickets come through).

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 13-04-2008 23:18

The Caps seem to be having a hard time putting their shots on goal. A lot of their opportunities don't show up as shots on goal because they just miss. I don't know if there's any sophisticated tactical explanation for that. They just miss.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 14-04-2008 16:27

For some reason, I'm not comfortable with a two goal lead going into the 3rd period.

You and Don Cherry both.

I haven't seen anything of this series — or indeed any of the play-offs — but AdeC jr has adopted the Caps due to the lack of 'Nucks. Based on his description it sounds as though this is going the full seven and whoever emerges victorious is going to be so beat up that they'll roll over for whoever they meet next.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 14-04-2008 16:38

The full seven seems likely, as the teams seem fairly evenly matched. The Flyers have no one close to the class of Ovechkin, but are a deeper team. If they can keep Ovechkin under wraps (like in the first 2 periods in game 1 and all of game 2), they look good, but as the 3rd period of game 1 showed, keeping him under wraps is much easier said than done.

As far as having nothing left for the next round, after the disaster of last season, I'd just be thrilled to get passed the Caps.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 14-04-2008 16:47

Last season wasn't a disaster for the Flyers because they managed to finally rid themselves of Bobby Clarke whose

malign influence has been an albatross around the neck of the organization and the city.

I find it a bit comical that many fans in Philly and around the league still think the Flyers are going to physically intimidate this or that opponent. It seems to come up every year. Trying to bully one's way to the Stanley Cup has accomplished almost nothing for the Flyers in the last 30 years. At least their current coachign staff seems to grasp that.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-04-2008 17:01

Has anyone seen any of the Flames-Sharks series?
What is going on with San Jose?

In other weekend news:

- 1) Salavat Yulaev won the deciding fifth game and the Russian Championship.
- 2) Bolzano (official name HC Interspar Bolzano Bozen Foxes, yes really) won the Italian Championship.
- 3) Boston College won the NCAA "Frozen Four".

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 14-04-2008 17:02

Reed,

If I was sure that Clarke was gone for good, I'd agree with you. He's like the Flyers' Johan Cruyff. Of the many things that drove me nuts about Clarke, it was that he never got passed his irritation that Bernie Parent got more of the credit for the two Stanley Cup winning teams. As a result, he never put much emphasis on goaltending. The Flyers got lightning in a bottle twice (Pelle Lindberg before he died, and then Hextall for his first couple of years), but after that, Clarke treated the position with contempt, which seriously hurt the otherwise decent Lindros/Recchi teams.

The "Broadstreet Bullies" mentality is hard to shake. It didn't help that the Flyers were a little, um, overeager early in this season. Fortunately, the team isn't playing that way now.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 14-04-2008 17:09

Biron could go either way at this point, I think. At times he looks brilliant, at others he looks like a traditional Flyers' goalie.

I've seen a bit of the Calgary-San Jose games. It's been on the 10 pm slot on Vs. a few times (although they're just picking up the CBC feed, I think). I haven't been paying close attention, but I'm pulling for Calgary. The new San Jose sweaters aren't working for me. Plus, I don't want a team from Silicon Valley to win the Stanley Cup. Haven't those people "won" enough in recent years?

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 14-04-2008 20:38

What is going on with San Jose?

Two words: Jarome Iginla. Hands down the best team captain in the NHL, and as a Canucks fan I say that between clenched teeth because he provides his team with precisely what we lack. Iginla carries the team on his back when he needs to (which is frequently.) Last night appeared to be typical. At three down he scored the first Flames goal and laid

on the second to turn the game around. I dislike Calgary more than any other NHL team but if there was one player I'd happily trade half our squad for it'd be him. I still believe (hope!) the Sharks are too big and talented to lose this series but if they do it'll certainly be down to Calgary's captain.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 15-04-2008 07:44

I haven't seen any of the games, but can I assume from the results that the Sens have become the new Leafs?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-04-2008 10:06

I haven't seen anything either, but it sounds as if may be more a case of the Pens firing on all cylinders.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 15-04-2008 20:17

Ottawa has never really recovered from their goalkeeping controversy earlier on in the season.

On the local front Canuck's chubby-cheeked GM Dave Nonis was fired yesterday. If you don't count the lockout year he was only in his third season. On the surface it seems a bit harsh. The Canucks missed the play-offs in his first year, then won their division, this season must have been the clincher. He made the big Luongo trade but little else. Truth is he was hired by the club's previous owners. The new ones may be trying to lure back Brian Burke, whose wife still lives and works here, having done the job in Anaheim may be ready to return. Where that leaves Vigneault we'll have to see.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 15-04-2008 22:48

Owner's always want their "own guy" as GM, especially if they can fire the guy they inherit without much fan outrage.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 16-04-2008 01:58

Yeah, then the new GM wants his "own guy" as coach and before you know it you've a team in turmoil. I'd be really pissed if Vigneault was canned, he was deservedly the league's coach of the year last season and, even this season, has done well with the players at his disposal.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 16-04-2008 02:36

Flyers up 4-3 with 3:00 left in Game 3. Flyers were coasting (4-2), but are missing Timmonen (who left injured). I'd put the odds of the Caps tying this up at 50/50 if not better. . .

As I'm typing, the Flyers got awarded a penalty shot as Mike Richards was tripped as the last man on net. And he scores. Please ignore the first paragraph. Thanks.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 16-04-2008 03:21

I left to go to the gym when it was 4-2 (I have to keep my personal priorities in line). I guess it's just as well.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 16-04-2008 03:27

It was exciting there for awhile (the 50 seconds it took to open OTF and type the first paragraph in my last post), but otherwise the Flyers looked pretty dominant. Biron wasn't on his game, but it didn't matter. It was an awfully chippy affair from both sides.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 17-04-2008 21:04

Reed,

Did you catch this slightly unhinged article in the Post today?

I hadn't thought that the Flyers had played particularly dirty so far in this series, but listening to talk radio, watching Wilbon on PTI and reading this article, it seems like the DC sports cognoscenti think that the Flyers are dirty, cheating barbarians trying to steal Ovechkin's birthright.

It's a weird dynamic, but I have to say it is making the series even more interesting than it is on the ice. Nice to see proper sports-related paranoia and bloodlust from DC hockey fans. On sports talk 980 today, one of the hosts said that if the Flyers go up 3-1, the Caps should make sure that none of them leave the series walking upright.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 17-04-2008 21:24

I haven't seen that and I can't because the WP website is fucked right now.

They probably wrote it before the series started. The Flyers are, in general, dirty, cheating barbarians, but it hasn't really shown in this series.

I don't think the Flyers have physically dominated the Capitals, although the Caps don't seem to be able to establish a big presence in front of either net. We just don't seem to have anybody that can do that. Maybe Chris Clark would have helped.

There's a lot of pent-up anger among Washington fans against Philly teams and their fans because of all the drunk, brain-dead Flyers and Eagles fans who have traditionally invaded Verizon Center and FedEx Field, not to mention that their teams usually win. They're very hateable. They're loud, obnoxious, usually stupid and talk funny and, of course, they've never won any championships in a zillion years (except for that lone Phillies title back when) so they seem sort of pathetic.

The problem seems to have become more acute recent years. It seems like the Redskins haven't beaten the Eagles at FedEx Field in forever.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Vernons Pools - 17-04-2008 21:33

Gyuri wrote:

it seems like the DC sports cognoscenti think that the Flyers are dirty, cheating barbarians ..quote]

The Bruins certainly have reason to complain about the Flyers this season...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeWFsKPNw9Q>

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 17-04-2008 22:11

The Bruins certainly have reason to complain about the Flyers this season...They certainly do. That was early in the season before Stevens got some control of the team (and it wasn't the only horrendous play from the Flyers early in the year). Actually, it's not fair to say that he got control, more that the team realized they had a better chance to win by actually playing hockey rather than pummeling people.

Of course, Marty McSorley's former team have always been the paragons of sporting virtue (just ask the Caps' Donald Brashear).

There's a lot of pent-up anger among Washington fans against Philly teams and their fans because of all the drunk, brain-dead Flyers and Eagles fans who have traditionally invaded Verizon Center and FedEx Field, not to mention that their teams usually win. They're very hateable.

Reed, the cheap answer to that would be that the only reason there isn't a similar view of DC fans in Philly is b/c very few Caps/Skins fans care enough to travel the two hours to a game in Philly. Giants/Rangers fans have a similarly bad rep in Philly because they always show up in relatively large numbers (and they talk funny, too). They're loud, obnoxious, usually stupid and talk funny and, of course, they've never won any championships in a zillion years (except for that lone Phillie title back when) so they seem sort of pathetic.

The problem seems to have become more acute recent years. It seems like the Redskins haven't beaten the Eagles at FedEx Field in forever. So the dislike of Philly fans in DC is a combination of sour grapes/bitterness and elitism. . .wow, that sounds a lot like DC (or at least the current hot topic in the Dem primary). (smiley thingy)

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 17-04-2008 22:15

The clip that was shown before our playoffs games...Freeeeeeeeedom!

<http://fr.youtube.com/watch?v=5tjKyKr2chU>

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 17-04-2008 22:26

That's great. I'm a sucker for ridiculous fire-up-the-crowd, pop culture/sports mash-up videos. Predictably, at Flyers games, they almost always use clips from the Rocky movies (which have become a sad icon of Philadelphia).

Amusingly, I'm told that at the last Flyers/Capitals game in DC, the Caps used clips from Rocky IV where the Russian (i.e., Ovechkin) was pounding Rocky.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 18-04-2008 00:15

And, of course, after our earlier discussions about how the series hasn't been particularly rough, one minute into the game, after the Flyers go up 1, there is a brawl.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 18-04-2008 02:56

just ask the Caps' Donald Brashear

Yes but Brashear has so much previous that he's hardly going to be an impartial judge. I'm actually amazed that Dukin' Donald is still in the NHL. Depending on how you rate these things he's probably the best on-ice fighter I've ever seen — keeps his opponent close and delivers a blinding set of short inside jabs, instead of the ineffective fist-to-helmet overarm haymakers favoured by most enforcers. Still, even when he was in Vancouver he skated like a snail on Valium and I don't imagine it's improved any.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 18-04-2008 03:02

Yes but Brashear has so much previous that he's hardly going to be an impartial judge. Yes, plus he played and fought for the Flyers, which further would harm his impartiality. I was just being jokey/obnoxious (Reed's blanket attack on Philly fans brought out the, well, Philly fan in me).

Meanwhile, Caps/Flyers in OT.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 18-04-2008 03:11

By the way, as a Flyers' fan, the new Russian line of Fedorov/Ovechkin/Kozlov is terrifying.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 18-04-2008 11:07

Gyuri (or anyone else for that matter but you're likely one of the better qualified), out of idle curiosity, is there anything worth mentioning about Joni Pitkänen's stint with the Flyers? I recall Coffy mentioning at the time of his transfer -- what was it, 5 seasons ago now? -- that great things were expected of him. I get the impression that he never achieved his considerable promise, and his trading onwards came as quite a surprise (though nowhere near as much as Jussi Jokinen's). How did the fans see him?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 18-04-2008 13:00

I think you're correct about the public perception of him in Philadelphia. He was expected to be the team's defensive savior, had two promising seasons, then his third year was a disappointment. Of course, last year was a disappointment for the entire team, but, in true Philly style, the fans, in general, decided to blame the golden boy.

The team's decision to trade him, I think, was tied to the fact that many thought that last year's debacle was partly caused by weakness on the blue line. Definitely a surprise to me, though.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Vernons Pools - 18-04-2008 15:54

Gyuri wrote:

Of course, Marty McSorley's former team have always been the paragons of sporting virtue (just ask the Caps' Donald Brashear).

Gyuri - well obviously I am only referring to this season. They Bruins have historically been a 'bruising team' rather than a team of flair. Albeit some of the greatest NHL players ever have worn their shirt. Orr, Bourque and Neeley for example.

I got to see nearly all of last night's game 5 in Montreal (on TV). http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeCJvZP_z6A What a great performance from period 2 onwards. The Habs rookie goalie Price looked really unnerved by the end of the second period and made a number of awful mistakes. The winning goal coming from a crappy 'save and clear it out play'. And the Bruins showed him up big time, when he waved and missed at a hit and hope flip the puck on net from out wide, late in the third period. By then the Forum was empty so the home fans missed seeing it live. http://cache.boston.com/bonzai-fba/Globe_Photo/2008/04/18/1208506241_0353.jpg

If the Bruins can use this as a momentum driver into Game 6 at home and win, I think that the Canadiens may actually start to wonder if they have run out of luck against the Bruins this season. Given that the Candiens beat the Bruins EVERY game this season, home and away. The Garden should be rocking on sat night.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 18-04-2008 16:01

It is great to see the Bruins and Habs play a competitive playoff series. It's difficult not to enjoy the rekindling of great, old rivalries. Game 6 in the Garden should be memorable (I only wish it was still the old Garden, I loved watching hockey games there).

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 18-04-2008 16:39

So the dislike of Philly fans in DC is a combination of sour grapes/bitterness and elitism. . .wow, that sounds a lot like DC (or at least the current hot topic in the Dem primary). (smiley thingy)

Something like that, although disdain for drunken loutishness is not "elitism." It is a shame, however. The bad apples - and there are a lot of them - make the rest of Philadelphians look bad. Some of my best friends are Philly fans.

I think the imbalance between the number of Philadelphia fans in DC arenas and the number of Washington fans in Philly isn't because Washington fans are apathetic. Its partly due to the transplant issue we discussed before but mostly about where the different teams and their fans are at this point in their history.

In the case of the Caps, there just aren't that many Caps fans. The ones that do exist are pretty into it and would probably want to travel to Philly if they could afford it and get tickets, but tickets are impossible to come by. The Flyers had success very early in their franchise history and so had a lot of succes building their fan base. It also helps that for a long stretch in the 1990s, the Flyers were pretty good and the Sixers were terrible, so all the attention was on them.

The situation with the Redskins is different.

There are plenty of seats available to Eagles fans who want to come to FedEx because so many Redskins fans are, essentially, boycotting the place. I go to one or two games a year with my sister-in-law's dad's tickets. He has a bunch that he gives to patients and he used to go too, but now he's just fed up. The Mrs. hasn't gone in years. I think he has trouble giving them away.

They used to invite me to go with them to their golf club for brunch before the game and then the club got some coach buses to take fans to the game. Five or six years ago, they filled two buses. Now, the club has stopped running that

because nobody wants to go.

They still offer me tickets. I usually take a few, but my interest in going has waned.

It's too early to say that this town "has turned" on the Redskins but its definitely in the mail. Unless Jim Zorn turns out to be an amazing diamond-in-the-rough genius, its going to get ugly. There's still an ton of good will in this area and throughout much of the southeast for the Redskins, but Danny "The Beltbuckle Kid" Snyder is squandering that good will as fast as he can. I think that within 10 years, if nothing substantially changes, we could be looking at local TV blackouts for Skins games.

The feeling isn't apathy. It's active anger and disgust for Dan Snyder, his horrible Mickey Mouse organization and, most of all, Fed Ex Field (which isn't actually DS's fault but it sucks nevertheless). FEF is a massive white elephant. It's hard to get to on game day and even harder to get away from after the game. The price of everything -tickets, parking, food, drink - is exhorbitant. Also, a lot of long time ticket holders are still bitter about how the seats they had at RFK have translated into much higher seats at Fed Ex. I know some older people really struggle to get up the ramps.

Combine that with the shit on the field, and people have simply had it. They still get pretty big crowds, but I've noticed over the years I've been going a steady shift away from families and old couples in gear clearly bought in the 1970s toward marginal "fans" who are there just because somebody gave them free tickets ("Why are they kicking the ball? What's a 'punt?' Oooh, look - cheerleaders!"), opposing fans and drunken louts (both home and away) there just to get drunk on \$7.00 Miller Lite.

There are also a suprisingly large number of morons who support Dan Snyder because they think its great that he "spends money." Yes, that would be great if he owned the Nationals, but the NFL has a salary cap. Profligate spending on free agents is exactly the wrong strategy. And, by all accounts, he's a douchebag.

Sorry, what was the question?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 18-04-2008 18:00

Unless Jim Zorn turns out to be an amazing diamond-in-the-rough genius, its going to get ugly.

The Jim Zorn? Ex-Squawkhawk southpaw QB Jim Zorn?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 18-04-2008 18:57

Yes. He's now the head coach of the Skins.

It happened like this:

Joe Gibbs quits. Much wailing and nashing of teeth even though his second go-round wasn't very successful.

The Skins round up the usual suspects for interviews. It looked for a while that it would be current (now former) d-coordinator Gregg Williams, but I guess Snyder and his right-hand man Vinny Cerato (who is not the GM, mind you, just VP of Football Operations and overpaying useless players) didn't really like his big ego too much, so after letting it dangle a few weeks, they let him go.

At somepoint during this circus, I think it was after Williams was out and before Fassel was ruled out, Snyder decides he's going to hire offensive and defensive coordinators even though he doesn't have a head coach. I can't recall who he got as d-coordinator, but for O-coordinator he got Zorn.

Zorn has been pretty good as the QB coach in Seattle so its a pretty reasonable gamble that he'll be a good OC, but why the FUCK do you hire coordinators before you have a coach? No self-respecting head coach is going to tolerate having the owner pick his top assistants for him.

I guess Snyder was doing what he always does when he's stuck - immitate Jerry Jones. Jerry Jones hired Jason Garret

as OC last year even before he got Wade Phillips to be the head coach. I thought at the time that Wade Phillips was a shockingly unimaginative retread choice, but the Cowboys did alright this year so I guess Danny thought it's a brilliant strategy.

Then it looked like it was going to be former Giants coach Jim Fassel. But the fans didn't seem to respond well to that idea and Fassel didn't seem too stoked, so they let him go.

More weeks passed. More interviews. They talked to one of the top New England assistants and a few other guys. None of them wanted the job.

So a few weeks drag on. The Skins have coordinators but no coach and the players are pissed because they wanted Gregg Williams. At this point I realized Jim Zorn was their only option since, as I said, no coach is going to want to come in with the coordinators already picked so they're going to have to go with somebody they already have. Given the overall situation with the skins and the development of QB Jason Campbell, it made more sense to elevate putative Offensive Coordinator to HC than the defensive coordinator.

More time passes and the Skins announce Zorn is their guy and that he was the only candidate they ever offered the job to (right.)

This may work out, in fact I think Jim Zorn might be a good coach, but if it works out it will be totally by accident. The whole search and selection process was a total clusterfuck from day one.

Also, they elevated Cerrato to Senior something or other, so he's now as close to being the GM as possible without actually being GM. Why Snyder won't hire a real GM is beyond anyone's understanding. Why he continues to believe, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that Cerrato has done a good job with the salary cap and player personnel decisions that he has made this far is even harder to comprehend.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 18-04-2008 20:26

Something like that, although disdain for drunken loutishness is not "elitism." It is a shame, however. I was more referring to your description of them as "usually stupid and talk funny." Further, Philadelphia fans haven't exactly cornered the market on "drunken loutishness". I don't know if you've ever gone to Fenway, Shea Stadium, or MSG for a Rangers game, but I'm not sure if I'd refer to certain segments of the fan base as "sober sophisticates." The difference is that many of the bad apples Philly fans who make it to games in DC, are actually the same drunken louts from Philadelphia, but the proximity to DC makes it possible for them to make the trip. This is also why you get idiot New York fans in Philly for games, but less so in DC.

I don't think you can blame the behavior of Philly fans on the DC transplants, because they are culled from almost the exact same populations that make up DC sports fans that attend games.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 18-04-2008 21:25

I was more referring to your description of them as "usually stupid and talk funny." Further, Philadelphia fans haven't exactly cornered the market on "drunken loutishness". I don't know if you've ever gone to Fenway, Shea Stadium, or MSG for a Rangers game, but I'm not sure if I'd refer to certain segments of the fan base as "sober sophisticates."

"Talk funny" would be an elitist comment, yes, although the stupidity is often plain to see.

I find other East Coast fans obnoxious too, but like you said, we don't see as much of them. I imagine Giants douchebaggery will be in ascendance now. The last time I saw a Giants-Redskins game, the Giants didn't have much to crow about.

(I've never been to Shea, I went to MSG for a Knicks-Sixers game in 1990 and have been to Fenway once).

Like I said, Mets fans at Nats games are pretty annoying although they seem a little humbled by their string of non-championships, late season collapses and horrible black uniforms.

Red Sox fans have become more obnoxious as their confidence grows, which is sad because I count many Red Sox fans among my good friends. They were better before they won, like Cubs fans are now. God help us when they win.

I think the worst all around might be Braves fans. The tomahawk chop just puts them right over the top in any fan cuntishness table followed nearly by Cowboys fans who aren't from Texas.

I don't think you can blame the behavior of Philly fans on the DC transplants, because they are culled from almost the exact same populations that make up DC sports fans that attend games.

That's probably true in general but I can cite a few anecdotal cases of transplated Philly fans living in DC who exemplify the sort of pathetic, liquid-courage-fueled obnoxious behavior.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 18-04-2008 21:43

That's probably true in general but I can cite a few anecdotal cases of transplated Philly fans living in DC who exemplify the sort of pathetic, liquid-courage-fueled obnoxious behavior. I'm sure that's right, and I can cite several anecdotal cases of native born DCers who display the exact same type of behavior (with respect to the Skins and Maryland Terps, prior to six months ago, I didn't know many passionate, native-born Caps or Wizards fans). In fact, there is one sports bar in Bethesda where I went to watch an Eagles/Skins game (without a jersey) two years ago, and was threatened with an ass kicking after I clapped following a Skins' turnover. There are knuckleheads everywhere.

To put a finer point on it, I think that a segment of sports fans (at least in the Bos-Was corridor) can be assholes when supporting their teams. In general, the number of assholes/degree of obnoxious behavior are directly proportional to the success of their franchise. This is almost exactly the opposite with Philly fans, where the assholes tend to be much worse when the teams aren't winning. This goes back to my point from last week, that much of the ridiculous behavior of Philadelphia sports stems from resentment rather than pride. (NOTE: "winning" in Philly means being better than mediocre, not actually winning championships, b/c very few living Philly fans know what that's like.)

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 18-04-2008 22:20

I'm sure that's right, and I can cite several anecdotal cases of native born DCers who display the exact same type of behavior (with respect to the Skins and Maryland Terps)

Its getting worse with the Skins, I think - at the games anyway. Like I said, the older people who used to go in the RFK era aren't coming out as much any more and a lot of them are being replaced by assholes. Indeed, I think the younger generation of sports fans has more assholes then ever before. I've noticed it at Penn State games and college fans across the country report a steady surge in douchebaggery over the last 15-20 years. Kids today, eh?

The Terps seem to draw a particularly low class of fan - no offense Soccer Scrimmage. What with the "Fuck Duke" shirts and what not. I mean, I can understand hating Duke, but they ought to come up with something more original than that.

I didn't know many passionate, native-born Caps or Wizards fans.

I don't know any passionate Wizards fans. It's like this city has a whole lost generation when it comes to the NBA. The Caps have always had, at least, a hardcore cult following. But I can recall that the Bullets always used to market temselves based on the opposing team. Also, as I understand it, Abe Pollin and certainly Wes Unseld don't understand how to win championships. They'd always try to put out a "decent" competitive team, instead of letting the team suck, get really good lottery picks and then rise to greatness.

And unlike the Caps, the Wizards have to compete for basketball fans attention with college and high school ball. The Caps are really the only option for hockey fans here (unlike Boston or Minnesota, for example).

In fact, there is one sports bar in Bethesda where I went to watch an Eagles/Skins game (without a jersey) two years

ago, and was threatened with an ass kicking after I clapped following a Skins' turnover. There are knuckleheads everywhere.

That's shocking. In Bethesda? In Bethesda I'd expect you to get a stern talking to by an old woman for making noise in a public place on a Sunday. Maybe there's a rough end of Bethesda that I haven't found yet.

In general, the number of assholes/degree of obnoxious behavior are directly proportional to the success of their franchise.

That's true, although I'd say there's a special "edge," for lack of a better word, to the assholeness of fans of teams that are pretty good, but not winning titles. Like pre-2004 Red Sox fans or Terrel Owens-era Eagles fans or Mets fans almost always. There's a certain combination of slight inferiority complex contrasted with a desire to lord it over lesser teams' fans seasoned with just a touch of desperation and anxiety that is unique to fans in that so-close-yet-so-far status.

One final note about Philly. One team that they really support well is the Wings of the NLL (indoor lacrosse). I went to the Spectrum for a game once. It's a good atmosphere.

Its remarkable because the Wings are a holdover from a different era in the NLL. The Wings are the sole continuous going concern of the old MILL teams that I followed when I ws into it back in high school. Back when it was the MILL, they tried to build franchises in places where there was interest in college outdoor lacrosse and get players who played around there - Baltimore, Long Island, Washington, Philly. And then they just tried putting it in places that had a hockey rink - Pittsburgh, Detroit, etc.

But neither strategy really worked. Interest in college lacrosse didn't really translate - teams in Baltimore, Washington and Nassau County ended up moving. Over time there have been a lot of franchise moves and some coming and going and the league has done best in places where indoor lacrosse has grass roots (Buffalo, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Rochester) and the players are almost all Canadian.

But the Wings have always survived. The explanation is that its because they were a winner - many league titles - and Philly was starving for that.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 19-04-2008 05:59

I agree with pretty much everything in your post. The Bethesda sports bar thing was very weird, and quite surprising to me, but I think dovetails into your point about the general rise of douchebaggery. I'm not sure if it's worse now than it was when I was a kid (though it's surely worse than the old days when fans showed up in sports jackets and hats), but overconsumption of alcohol combined with sports can be a bit of an explosive combination.

General sports-related douchebaggery (obnoxious chants, etc.) doesn't bother me much so long as it doesn't lead to violence.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 19-04-2008 06:10

There's a real problem in this country with the quality of chants. It's always "XXXX Sucks!" We can put a man on the moon, but we can't do better than that?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 19-04-2008 21:47

It really is embarrassing. It would be excellent if the major US sports were capable of generating supporters groups capable of coordinating for chants, etc. I don't know why we haven't.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 19-04-2008 22:49

It's better at the college and high school level where they have, you know, actual cheerleaders and a band who come up with songs and cheers.

The NFL has people called cheerleaders, but they don't interact with the crowd. A few NFL teams have bands but they don't play during the game. They just play shit pop music. That's infected college sports too, somewhat.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 19-04-2008 22:58

That's true, and at many hockey/bball arenas, nearly every moment has some musical score/scoreboard-generated chant. There's very little room for fan-generated chanting.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 20-04-2008 00:30

Gyuri, do bare in mind that if you have fans that are the kind that does not need a cue to sing and support their team, you do have associated violence, one does not go without the other. Young men full of testosterone and booze that get all wild behind the goal to cheer their team on tend to be slightly quicker to react if someone from the other end talk or act like a douchebag, to use a word much favoured by Reed!

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 20-04-2008 00:44

Gyuri, do bare in mind that if you have fans that are the kind that does not need a cue to sing and support their team, you do have associated violence, one does not go without the other. Is this really true? I'd think there'd be a line somewhere between willingness to chant/sing in an organized fashion and willingness to mix it up physically with the opposition. I mean, the a capella singing groups at university in the US seem to have no problem getting together some ostensibly clever songs, and they rarely pose a threat of violence, though they may be a deserved target. (ok, that last bit was meant to be some kind of joke, but do you really think you can't have an organized, nonviolent fanbase?)

Even if you can't separate "douchebaggery" from organized chanting, since we seem to have a reasonable level of bad behavior at sporting events here (though, as I understand it, somewhat less than at certain grounds in Europe), at least we should get some creative chants to make the medicine go down better.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 20-04-2008 03:17

I noticed that the new Seattle Sounders FC are holding auditions for a Sounders Marching Band. That's awesome.

The Caps have a fan - as far as I know he's paying to be there - who can get the whole crowd going with the "Let's Go Caps" just with the power of his will and his booming voice. It's a dull cheer, but at least it's crowd-generated.

I don't really care for crowd chanting or singing. I prefer to sit back, shake my head and mutter to myself until I just can't stand it anymore and have to scream "WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT" or "C'MON , GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR ASS." But that's just me.

I find those spontaneous bits unbridled emotion to be the most interesting. One of my favorites was about five years ago at a Minnesota Wild - Vancouver Canucks game in St. Paul. As usual, the Wild fans were into it early on, but the Wild played what was, by far, the worst game of hockey I'd ever witnessed at any level. It was 5-0 in the third period and that score flattered Minnesota. Few of the fans had left (except people in the club level had moved to the bar to watch the Vikings-Bears) but almost everyone was silent. Then the Wild were on a powerplay and somebody failed to complete a simple pass and it drifted out of the zone all the way back to the goalie. From somewhere in the arena came the frustrated voice of a lone man - "AAHHHHH PLAY THE GAME!!!"

Minor league and college baseball is a good place to hear this sort of thing.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 20-04-2008 22:37

Thanks for the answer, Gyuri. I have to say it rather took me back the amount that seems to have been expected of him and the price of failing other people's expectations. He joined the Flyers when in his early 20s (22 or maybe 23, I think), and it sounds like a hell of a burden to lump on his shoulders. I'm sure he'd never faced anything like it before. When he was with us he wasn't even our best defender (the best carrying the puck forward without a doubt -- I've fond memories of the rest of the team changing while he merrily made his lonesome way towards the opposition net, puck seemingly glued to the end of his stick while the next shift pelted like hell off the bench to get with him) and I can't imagine anyone round here viewing him as anything other than one of the team.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 20-04-2008 22:53

1890 wrote:

Gyuri, do bare in mind that if you have fans that are the kind that does not need a cue to sing and support their team, you do have associated violence, one does not go without the other. Where on earth do you get that from? You may possibly have a case that a minority element of fans can fit that description, but to suggest they're inextricably linked I regard as complete nonsense. If it were true, the police could make a case for arresting spontaneous songsters at sports grounds.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 20-04-2008 23:19

It does read that way Muuk, which is indeed nonsense!

What I was trying to say is that the kind of supporter's group that will be able to provide the atmosphere Gyuri mentions do come associated with some baggage. There is spontaneous chanting in our rinks but it's no more developed than in the USA. It does not concern all the elements of the group and, more often than not, the group add-on to the entertainment value way exceeds any potential negative issues.

To take an example I know well, the two groups at GSHC both were involved in some minor trouble but the club has been constant in praising their efforts to provide a good atmosphere in the rink, home and away. In fact, the good old "It's football fans coming to cause trouble" that Rugby League clubs in England love to us has been also used by the clubs to justify some of the incidents....

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jefe - 21-04-2008 04:24

I noticed that the new Seattle Sounders FC are holding auditions for a Sounders Marching Band. That's awesome.

That was one of Drew Carey's demands to join to the Seattle ownership group.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 21-04-2008 09:09

I don't really care for crowd chanting or singing. I prefer to sit back, shake my head and mutter to myself until I just can't stand it anymore and have to scream "WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT" or "C'MON , GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR ASS." But that's just me.

From a marketing perspective, you're some kind of dream fan.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Muukalainen - 21-04-2008 12:09

He joined the Flyers when in his early 20s (22 or maybe 23, I think), ...Not even that. He crossed the Atlantic as a teenager and had his 20th birthday shortly after the start of his first season in the NHL. To add to the burden on him, he could hardly speak a word of English when he first moved there. Anyway, hopefully he'll get to play in the forthcoming World Championships. I don't recall having seen him play since he left us.

1890, that's fair enough, I'd think.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 21-04-2008 14:47

Thanks for the answer, Gyuri. I have to say it rather took me back the amount that seems to have been expected of him and the price of failing other people's expectations. Muukalainen,

It's a function of two things, (1) the pressure generally placed on first round draft picks, and (2) the fact that the Flyers completely fell apart last year and the new regimes attempt to remake the team to fix that. I don't think the Flyers traded him because they thought he was worthless, rather he was one of their few valuable trading chips.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 21-04-2008 20:47

"From a marketing perspective, you're some kind of dream fan."

In that case, I expect a LOT more ass-kissing from team management.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 22-04-2008 02:01

Great. Flyers blow another 2 goal lead against the Caps. Now tied in the 3rd period.

In other news, it looks like the Habs were determined not to let the game 7 against the Bruins be competitive. 3-0 Canadians in the third.

Er. . .Ovechkin scores on a breakaway. 3-2 Caps.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 22-04-2008 03:04

I can't believe I missed it. When it was 2-0 Flyers, I was so upset that I decided to go to the gym. I figured I wouldn't stay long and then I could come back to see the third period. But then I lost track of time and forgot I was missing the GAME!! I can't believe I spaced on that. I got back and it was over.

On the plus side, I do feel much better. I think the workout cleared my my cold.

And for the first time in this series, I think the Caps have a good chance to win. Momentum has been generally in their favor since the overtime loss in game four, and now it's in their favor. Huet looks pretty good, Ovechkin looks comfortable and game 7 is in Chinatown.

I'm disappointed the Bruins lost. It sounds like the Bruins were on the verge of recapturing Boston's love. On the plus side, I wouldn't mind seeing a Canadian team win the cup.

I don't know where to watch game 7. I'll probably just watch it at home. Knowing bars in this area, most of them will probably be totally clueless and be showing arena football, the Orioles, golf or some non-Wizards NBA game.

Speaking of the Wizards. WTF?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 22-04-2008 03:08

I'm not surprised the Flyers are going to choke away the 3-1 lead in the series. They've had a hard time holding leads all season. Still frustrating, especially as I've had to endure non-stop taunts from my nephew for the last 40 minutes.

As for the Wizards? Well, LeBron is really, really good, and one great player matters much more in the playoffs than in the regular season. But that's probably a conversation for a different thread.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 22-04-2008 03:13

How old is your nephew? I've found that its best not to taunt family over sports. But maybe he's not old enough to realize this.

It always comes back to haunt you. I say this with some experience. One group of cousins are Ohio State fans (yeah, I know) and the other group are big Iowa fans. It always comes back around. So we've got a sort of unwritten agreement to keep it high-minded and civil at all times.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 22-04-2008 03:23

He's 17, but isn't particularly good at taking the long view. Also, taunting me about hockey is risk-free for him, because his Cap-fandom is probably not long lasting.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 22-04-2008 03:53

17 is not an age when one usually makes long term commitments or thinks about the future.

I think the NHL will get a good series with the Penguins regardless of the outcome tomorrow night. If its the Caps, they'll get the dream star-vs-star matchup. If it's the Flyers, then its a cross-state rivalry between divisional foes and cities that don't like each other.

It seems that the dividing line for Pittsburgh-Philadelphia fandom in PA is a bit east of the center. It's roughly the Susquehanna River.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 22-04-2008 03:56

Does the NHL re-seed after each round? For some reason I thought that they did (which would have the Flyers playing the Habs if they won).

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 22-04-2008 04:11

As I understand it, they reseed (within the conference, of course).

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 22-04-2008 04:13

Of course, I meant the Flyers playing the Canadians, not the Caps.

Though I don't think the Flyers will get out of this series, I'm glad that they'd be playing the Habs rather than the Penguins, as I don't think I can stomach them going up the other, non-Ovechkin savior of the league.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 22-04-2008 04:29

Oh, I see.

I got the story.
<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08112/875233-61.stm>

If the Caps win, they play the Pens and therefore, the Canadiens play the Rangers. If the Flyers win, they'll play the Rangers and the Habs play the Pens. Flyers rangers is a great rivalry. New York-Philly in anything is bitter.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 22-04-2008 14:58

Hmmm. The prospect of Sean Avery taking on the Philly Phaithful is a guilty pleasure that's hard to resist.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 22-04-2008 15:05

Especially now that Avery's announced that he's going to intern at Vogue.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 22-04-2008 15:39

If the Flyers win, they'll play the Rangers and the Habs play the Pens. Actually, if the Flyers win they play the Habs (Habs are the one seed, Flyers will be the lowest remaining seed). If the Caps win, they play the Pens (as the Rangers will be the lowest remaining seed and, therefore, destined for the Habs).

Unfortunately, that means the Flyers only play the Rangers if the Flyers beat the Caps tonight and then the Habs and the Rangers beat the Pens.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 22-04-2008 16:07

Oh yeah, right. I'm very confused.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 22-04-2008 16:12

I must be confused also, as I seem to be looking forward to a Flyers/Rangers series. It would be a bloodbath (in the stands). When the Mets played in Philly this weekend, there were numerous fights and a couple of Mets fans were arrested (one of them for punching a cop).

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 22-04-2008 16:31

The only baseball game I ever went to at the old Vet was against the Mets in 1990. Typically, the Phils blew a five run lead. Dykstra had an inside the park homerun for the Phillies. I was there with my governor's school group. There were a lot of obnoxious Mets fans there.

I'd like to go to the Phillies new stadium. I've heard it's very nice.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 22-04-2008 16:35

To my great chagrin, I've not yet made it to the new stadium either. For some reason, I have no problem justifying the time and expense to drive there for Eagles' games, but haven't been able to for Phillies' games.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 22-04-2008 18:37

Times used to be you had to win a final in order to have a major riot in Montreal. Rioting after the first round suggestions

vastly diminished expectations.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by 1890 - 22-04-2008 18:58

Obviously none of them were Habs fans I guess

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 22-04-2008 20:49

Its probably for the same reason I haven't been to the new Nats park or why there are a number of cool museums in DC that I have yet to visit. The supply, as it were, is so plentiful that you don't feel any urgency to go today. But then that same feeling strikes tomorrow and the next day and the next....

NFL games are more rare.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 23-04-2008 00:00

For the first time in a decade, not only am I going to watch a hockey game, but I am excited about it. Yes, I am hopping on the bandwagon. I was in DC this afternoon and I actually saw people walking around with Caps shirts on.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 00:05

Reed, I think that's a dead-on diagnosis.

As for the game tonight (by the way, what's the reason for back-to-back games? I thought that never happened in the NHL these days), I'm shutting off my phone and watching from behind my sofa, as I'm sure of disaster for the Flyers. The combination of this game and the PA primary will ensure that tonight is not a fun one for me.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 00:44

The refs seem intent on making sure the Flyers win.

It's back to back because they started the Caps series late so they could put game one on a Friday night for some reason.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 00:50

It's back to back because they started the Caps series late so they could put game one on a Friday night for some reason. Weird. It seems unfair (though I'm not clear who it would benefit other than the next opponent of the winner).

The refs seem intent on making sure the Flyers win. So when a highstick cuts a Flyers' face it shouldn't be called?

Remember, the first of the two penalties leading to the 5-3 that lead to the Caps goal was pretty weak (the second, however, was horrendous by Hatcher).

That being said, I've been watching this game thinking the refs were in the tank for the Caps (until the last 4 minutes). The only thing I take from this is that everyone always thinks the refs are against them.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 00:56

I got home late. I didn't see the Caps goal.

The officiating has been very erratic throughout the series, but it seems to favor the Flyers slightly overall, although maybe it just seems that way because they have a better powerplay.

There were a number of no calls during that long power play that should have killed it off early.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 00:58

The Philly folks all think the refs have been favoring the Caps, with the justification that the league is desperate to have Ovechkin keep playing.

I should note that the Caps have been outplaying the Flyers at even strength, so I hope that the refs are favoring the Flyers as it's their best chance to win.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 01:11

Those are the same people who insist that Michael Jordan played baseball as some kind of crypto suspension for his gambling sins and that the draft that put Patrick Ewing on the Knicks was rigged.

If the league was conspiring to market Ovechkin, they wouldn't have let him end up on the Capitals in the first place nor let Crosby go to Pittsburgh. (I recall there were some supposedly serious journalists suggesting that the league should openly rig the post-lockout draft to ensure the Rangers got Crosby.)

Discussions about officiating rarely go anywhere because it usually devolves into conspiracy theories and whining. The truth is that its just erratic and random distributions rarely end up perfectly even, so somebody does end up with an advantage but it's because the officiating was just inconsistent all around, not intentionally favoring anyone.

Except in the BigTen football. The officiating is atrocious all around, but you can always count on Michigan or Ohio State to get the bad call in their favor. Always. The league never addresses it, they just circle the wagons and charge sour grapes.

The ice is pretty bad at Verizon Center.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 01:13

I keep flipping between this game and the cable nets for the election results. Given this double dose of pain, I'd probably do just as well to subject myself to the pain of Andrew Lloyd Webber night on American Idol.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 01:23

As I said, the refs are completely in the tank for the Caps. . .

Joking aside, I missed the replay of the goal, but the Caps announcers were apoplectic.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 01:27

Very cheesy goal, but those kind of plays have been called both ways. On replay it looks like goalie interference, but it wasn't clear at full speed.

The Flyer barreled into the Cap and then into the goalie so technically, it was a defender that knocked over Huet. Personally, I think the goalie should be given more protection in the rules from that sort of thing. In cases where an offensive player provides the impetus for a pile up like that, they should just blow the whistle and face off inside the zone. I'm sure Don Cherry would shit his plaid pants if they installed a candy-ass Swede-loving rule like that, but he'll be dead soon so fuck Don Cherry.

If the Flyers win, it will be the sort of questionable call that everyone remembers and feeds the rivalry.

I'm watching it on mute.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Soccer Scrimmage - 23-04-2008 01:36

That Flyers goal was ridiculous. If shoving players into the opposing goalie isn't technically against the rules, why wouldn't this be a standard tactic? Particularly on power plays, when there is often a scrum in front of the goal.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 01:39

It sort of is a standard tactic, but usually you can't get away with plowing somebody over nowhere near the puck.

Certainly, we would not have allowed that as a goal playing floor hockey back home.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 01:42

The league should talk up Daniel Briere. He's like a rich man's Theo Fleury.

QUICK TURN TO NBC!!!

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 01:45

That Ovechkin guy is pretty good, too.

Was the NBC comment about the Chippendale's sketch? If so, I agree, it's awesome, if a bit sad.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 01:48

Yes on both.

Farley's total commitment to the bit is remarkable.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 02:03

I'm trying to figure out where my allegiance goes in the next round if the Caps lose. Calgary, I guess, if they win tonight. Otherwise, Les Habs or maybe the Penguins although I'm down on Pittsburgh right now because their mayor, who is barely old enough to drive, went for Hillary.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 02:08

The Habs won't be easy to support, given that the Habs fans seemed to have lost their mind in the playoff series, both in Boston and, as the article AG posted note, in Montreal.

If the Flyers lose tonight, I'm not sure what I'd do, as the Caps and Pens would be my two preferences and they are playing each other.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 02:16

As we discussed, there are bad apples in every bunch.

I'm more clear on who I don't want to win - Dallas, because its Dallas. Detroit because they've won enough lately and that's boring, pus there are a lot of Michigan fans in that bunch. San Jose because of that whole smug Silicon Valley-"we support Stanford football ironically" thing.

I don't rate the chances of any teams in the east. I generally don't care for the Flyers but a Flyers Stanley Cup would probably be good for Pennsylvania as a whole, so if it came to that, I'd root for them.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 02:18

As we discussed, there are bad apples in every bunch. Yeah, but usually they have the good taste to hold off rioting until they win something that would allow them to put a banner up in their arena.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 02:27

True, I guess its just a lot of pent-up frustration about the Expos.

Speaking of the Expos, that would be an interesting subplot to a Caps-Habs series.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 02:34

I'm nauseous with nerves.

But at least the future looks bright for the Caps regardless and its not like they could win the Cup this year.

If I were a Sharks fan, however, I'd be shitting myself. If they lose, they're going to clean house and have nice big blamestorm.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 02:41

I don't know if it's actually worth watching the OT. The stress and nerves of it may be worse than the joy of potentially winning. Damn. . .of course I'll watch it, but I kind of hate this.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed Miller - 23-04-2008 02:44

I have to watch, although I don't want to.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 23-04-2008 02:58

Christ, Poti, what are you thinking?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 03:03

WOOOOOOOOOOO!!! That was surprising, as the Caps had been killing that penalty off very well. Terrible penalty by the Caps; such an obvious trip right after a non-call on another trip was always going to get a call.

Condolences Reed and SocScrim, great series and the Caps are young and getting better, so there's much good to take from this.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 23-04-2008 03:03

Devastating.

I knew it was over as soon as that power play started. The Flyers were getting tons of good looks. It was inevitable.

That's as close as it could have been, I guess.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 04:42

Further evidence that the future looks bright for the Caps: 18 of their 20 goals in the series were scored by players under 24 years old.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Coffy - 23-04-2008 16:17

Reed, now what were you saying about obnoxious Philadelphia fans?
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFHne2NAgyl>

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 17:29

The more fans a team has, the likelihood that some of them will act like idiots increases. Now that the Caps have become popular, Reed can look forward to an increase in general douchebaggery amongst them. But at least they don't talk funny!

More importantly, that was a hell of an accurate beer-bottle toss. The Nats ought to sign the guy.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 23-04-2008 22:44

Eh, the bottles are plastic.

Caps fans do talk funny. A lot of them are from Balmore, hon.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 23-04-2008 23:02

The guy on Washington Post Live is commenting on the shameful behavior of Caps fans at the arena last night after the game - booing, throwing stuff, etc. I guess they were just bitter about the officiating, but that's no excuse.

Ovechkin saluted the fans, which was class. Now I hear he might be playing for Russia in the WC's, also class.

Otherwise, I doubt there's ever been a team or its media to lose in the first round and feel so positive about it.

The post-season begins. They signed coach Boudreau to a long-term deal. That's smart, but they still don't have a goalie. Huet and Kolzig are both free agents and the Post beat-writer thinks Huet may prefer to go to Ottawa.

I don't know if they'll offer Federov enough to stay, but I think he likes playing for the Caps.

Cook and Laich are RFAs, I think and now worth more than they were six weeks ago.

They've got a lot of picks in this year's draft, although that's probably not going to make a short-term difference.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 23:07

Otherwise, I doubt there's ever been a team or its media to lose in the first round and feel so positive about it. The positivity is well-deserved. They have a world-class player, a bright future, and, perhaps most importantly, have jump started a long-dormant excitement for hockey in DC.

Granted, I'm happy for them now, but if the fans/local media start treating them like they usually treat the 'Skins, I'll have to start hating them soon.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 23-04-2008 23:27

What do you mean "usually treat the Skins?" Talk about them too much? Kiss their ass too much? Accept their offensive nickname?

The local media seems to be slowly turning on the Skins. Al Koken, for example, was just on tv (I'm at home, ill) ripping their attempt to trade away their picks for Johnson and Boldin and pointing out that good teams, like the Giants and Colts don't trade away picks like that.

It seems like younger members of the media have turned on them faster. George Michael continues to kiss Dan Snyder's ass, but the Sports Junkies, for example, are all pretty bitter about the state of the team.

I hope this surge in Caps interest sticks better than the surge they got when they went to the finals with Bondra, et al. I seems more significant, at least - better TV ratings, for example and the general popularity of the Verizon Center and environs has grown a lot in ten years.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 23-04-2008 23:34

What do you mean "usually treat the Skins?" A loud and blind homerism that raises mediocrities (or has-beens) to deities, and blames any slip on bad luck/some outside force. Admittedly, this quality of the DC-sports press has diminished under Snyder's ownership (but only, really, in the last few years).

Perhaps I'm just used to the Philly media, which spends all its time saying that good players are crap and any good thing that happens is the product of luck/some outside force.

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 24-04-2008 00:04

I prefer a bit of homerism to toxic negativity. Sports are not worth getting so bent out of shape like they do in Philly and Boston.

But Washington fans need to revolt if there's any hope of turning the Skins around. Even that might not get Snyder to sell or change his ways, but he's certainly not going to improve if people continue to hold out hope for the current regime.

I'm gratified that a couple of radio guys are calling Leonsis the best local owner and are totally dismissive of callers (there's always one) who insist that Snyder is good because he "spends money" or is "good at marketing." Maybe they're

talking about a Bizzaro Dan Snyder that I don't know about.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 24-04-2008 00:16

I don't mind homerism relating to teams that I support, but having to constantly read/watch/listen to homerism from teams I don't like (in a market I'm captive to) is, of course, immensely irritating. It's one of the reasons I despise the Miami Dolphins after living in S. Florida.

My anti-homerism issue has been exacerbated recently by MLB Extra Innings, b/c now I get to watch a ton of Phillies games with opposing team announcers.

All that being said, DC media homerism for the Caps is preferable to the DC media ignoring the Caps.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 24-04-2008 00:30

I wouldn't waste one's limited supply of irritation on coverage of local teams. They are, after all, the local teams.

I get more annoyed with coverage of teams that aren't really local. Like the Post or 980 covering the Orioles or Virginia Tech.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 24-04-2008 00:37

Oh no, my supply of irritation is limitless, though subject to decreasing marginal returns.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 24-04-2008 10:12

Thrash metal band Speedhair releases new recording for the playoffs: Go Habs Go!

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 24-04-2008 10:47

Any Habs song should evoke Charles Trenet and peniches on the St. Lawrence. More accordion, please.

Boum! could easily work for hockey.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 24-04-2008 22:53

I can't understand why they rushed the Flyers/Caps games 6 and 7 to be on back-to-back nights, just so the Flyers/Habs series could start two days later, just so the game competes with the Red Wings/Avs game, which means the Flyers game is not being televised. Crap.

Apologies for the rant.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 24-04-2008 22:54

Any chance that Channel 45 will show it locally just for something to air? They've randomly shown some Flyers games this year, I guess because it's Comcast in Philly and its Comcast here too.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 24-04-2008 23:16

It's not on their schedule. I just realized that the MLB Extra Innings Package has been put on the same channels as the NHL package. I wonder if that means that RCN cable has unwittingly given me access to the game.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 24-04-2008 23:34

It's possible; For a long time I was getting the MLB package despite only paying for the NHL package. I get neither now (I'm skint).

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 25-04-2008 01:47

The Flyers may not win the Stanley Cup, but if there was a trophy given out to the team that blew the most 2-goal leads in the playoffs, they would surely win it in a landslide.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Coffy - 25-04-2008 17:03

I got home later than usual (but it was for a sports-related reason, attending a panel discussion featuring Tommie Smith and John Carlos), so the Flyers were already ahead 2-0. Then look at what happened. Maybe I need to not actually watch the rest of the playoffs.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 25-04-2008 17:52

Coffy,

No lead is safe. It's always a problem with hockey, but especially this Flyers team in both the regular season and now in the playoffs. Makes it quite tense to watch.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Gyuri - 27-04-2008 01:35

Uh oh. Flyers have another 2 goal lead, with 6:00 minutes left in the 2nd. The Habs have them right where they want them. . .

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ad hoc - 05-05-2008 10:40

No strictly the right thread for this news (it's a 2008/2009 season piece of info), but Steaua Bucharest have obviously decided that they can no longer compete in Romania without playing in Hungary too, and have entered next year's Hungarian league too (the invitation has been there for a while but they haven't taken it up before).

This is only ice hockey, which is not huge in either country, but it is a significant rapprochement moment I feel.

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 05-05-2008 10:59

Does Becali own the ice hockey team as well? Or is it a separate institution? Even if they are distinct entities, it certainly is an "interesting" move in light of what's been going on in the football league this year.

To update the NHL results, the conference finals will be Pittsburgh-Philadelphia and Detroit-Dallas. The Penguins eliminated the Rangers in the first overtime period, while it took Dallas four overtimes to beat San Jose.

Liverpool supporters may wish to note that Tom Hicks' Dallas Stars are still alive, while George Gillett's Montreal Canadiens are playing golf.

=====

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Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ad hoc - 05-05-2008 11:44

No, Becali has nothing to do with the hockey team. I'm not entirely sure what (if any besides the name and presumably some historical connection) the connection between the two teams is.

=====

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Bombanero - 11-05-2008 17:22

Is the World Championship getting any coverage in North America? At all? It's mainly Shedden bashing here, which is tremendous fun.

=====

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 11-05-2008 18:32

It's getting a little coverage, but as far as I'm aware none of the games are on TV in the United States (unless its being shown on the NHL Network, which I don't get) and I think at least some of Canada's games are on TSN in Canada.

=====

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Bombanero - 11-05-2008 18:43

That's a pretty massive oversight. Everything's on here, and most of it is pretty dull (not that I've watched anywhere near all of it, like).

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 13-05-2008 16:48

Not really. Even if it were on TV, I doubt it would get much attention.

Hockey doesn't get good ratings on TV in the US as it is, and right now hockey fans' attentions are focused on the Stanley Cup playoffs which are far, far, far more important to us than the putative World Championships, which has some good players, but the top six countries can't send their best teams because so many players are in the NHL playoffs.

And in Canada, the Memorial Cup is still going on, I believe, and a lot of people up there care more about that.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 17:37

The one thing that I've seen get any coverage in the US press is a terrible referee call in the US/Finland match.

I caught a period of Italy/Czech Republic, which turned up on the public satellite sport channel without any real advance notice (in between the 3rd place match and final for the European Cup of Water Polo, as it happens). What I saw was very much in line with BaN's summary above, and basically a different sport than the Stanley Cup games I've been watching on NASN.

The Wings are on a roll.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Bombanero - 13-05-2008 21:47

Reed: I meant an oversight by the organisers, not the TV companies. Finnish sport often pays to get coverage, as its seen as crucial to increase interest and exposure for those millions of unreadable logos that clutter up most kits.

That call was spectacular, wasn't it? Here's the video:

http://www.yle.fi/media/asxgene.php?file=tvurheilu/MM2008_FIN_USA_1-2_Koistinen.wmv

The referee was sacked after that.

This article has made the Finnish papers:

<http://slapshot.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/05/11/the-danny-gallivan-of-finland/>

The comments section is mostly composed of Finns really excited that someone is talking positively about one of them. Bless.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 13-05-2008 22:10

The call was staggeringly inept, if only because he actually claimed to have watched the video.

Slapshot is more than decent blog, and remarkable for the US in the attention it gives to hockey outside of North

America. And those clips are ace.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 13-05-2008 22:13

Oh, I see.

It really doesn't make any sense to have the supposed World Championship during the Stanley Cup although unlike baseball or basketball players, NHL players - especially young ones - are generally keen on playing for their country if their club team isn't still playing. Ovechkin went almost directly from game 7 of the series with the Flyers to join Russia in this tournament and never whined about how tired he is nor did the Caps ownership complain that he's risking injury (which is what we hear from NBA and MLB players and owners).

What an atrociously bad call! I can see that getting past the referee in real time, but how can they look at that on tv replay and not see that it didn't go in the front of the goal? Also, the guys who maintain and install the goals should be sacked. The puck shouldn't go in under the side like that.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Bombanero - 13-05-2008 22:39

Despite holding the rights, YLE have decided not to show the UEFA Cup final tomorrow, instead opting for a 5 hour marathon of crap live from Halifax. This fucking country.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Belhavka - 14-05-2008 11:12

Due to a sequence of unlikely results in other games, Norway have qualified for the quarter final despite only getting 3 points from six games. We are playing Canada tonight. This must be the most unevenly matched quarter final game in the history of the World Cup and I fully expect us to lose by at least ten goals.

We've already played Canada once and lost only by one goal then but there is no way Canada will make the same mistake and underestimate us this time around.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-05-2008 12:23

Serious blow-outs are quite rare at this stage, even when a dark horse makes it into the last eight (and one always does, as there are 6 recognised "big" hockey nations (7 if you include Slovakia, who didn't make it to the quarters this time)).

The Canadians are very likely to take their foot off the gas once they get three goals up; I wouldn't expect the margin to be more than five.

I see that one of the games that BaN is bitching about is Sweden-Czech Republic. If that proves to be a snoozer, there isn't much hope for international hockey.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 14-05-2008 12:32

And in Canada, the Memorial Cup is still going on, I believe, and a lot of people up there care more about that.

Nah. Worlds are front-page. Memorial cup is not.

I haven't paid much attention to the worlds in years - have they started this late for some years now or is this the latest start ever? Delaying it until after the end of the first round of the NHL playoffs makes a huge difference for Canada as it allows us to pick from 22 NHL rosters instead of just 14.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-05-2008 12:36

They've been sliding later for a couple of years now.

They used to start in mid-April, but made it to the last week of April last year, and I think that the fact that Canada is hosting helped convince them to start even a bit later than that this year.

Some of the Euro club seasons are getting longer, too, which helps bring additional pressure towards the same end.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Bombanero - 14-05-2008 13:26

I will be watching the 5 hour marathon, so i hope you're right ursus.

YLE don't have the rights to the UEFA Cup final, so I'll let them off, but it's shocking that no-one thought to offer viasat something for some kind of live transmission. There are 50,000 Russians in Finland, and all the ones I know support Zenit, surely it could be streamed for them?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 14-05-2008 19:06

Nah. Worlds are front-page. Memorial cup is not.

Well, the Worlds are in Canada this year, no Canadian teams are left in the Stanley Cup playoffs (unless you count Detroit) and the Memorial Cup proper doesn't start until Friday. All of that helps coverage of the WC, I suspect.

The thing I don't understand about the Memorial Cup is that in addition to the three league champions, they give a place to the hosts. This year, the hosts (Kitchener) won the OHL, so they gave the other slot to the OHL runner-up. How is that fair? Why not the WHL runner-up or the QMJHL runner-up? And what happens if the event is awarded to a host city whose team sucks. They could, conceivably go on a tear and win the Memorial Cup without having deserved to be there at all. Whose idea was that?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 14-05-2008 20:54

I presume it was the idea of the clubs that wanted to host, and didn't want to risk not getting people into the rink.

So, BaN got overtime, a penalty shot and a generally tense match. I wonder if he found it boring.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Antonio Gramsci - 14-05-2008 21:05

The worlds being here is a big factor, Reed, but even in a normal year, the Memorial Cup isn't a major event outside the cities that have teams playing in it. And none of these are in cities that are major media markets in their own right.

And as for your question about whether or not the hosts suck, as in the WC, the quality of the host team's squad is not *entirely* ignored when awarding a site. S. Africa is lucky its squad had a good run in the late 90s. If its team had sucked in 2001-2 the way it currently sucks, I'm not so sure it would be hosting in 2010. Similarly, truly crap hosts of the Mem Cup are rare, I think.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 14-05-2008 21:22

I was under the impression that it was a bigger deal than that, akin to the college basketball final four (except done with the taste and understated class that the NPS is known for).

I guess they don't award the host city until the season has started, so maybe they look at the team's form.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Bombanero - 14-05-2008 21:51

I've got two deadlines tomorrow, ursus, and my attempt to command the television while typing at the dinner table was (rightly) given short shrift. I'll wait for your boys against Leijonat in the middle of the night, which is probably for the best as I really am not enough of a hockey fan to watch four games in quick succession.

Canada seem to be cruising home against Norway. Has the draw for the semis already been made?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Bombanero - 15-05-2008 01:59

2-0 to Finland so far. Will people have to start being nice to Doug Shedden?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Bombanero - 15-05-2008 09:46

And its Finland-Russia and Canada-Sweden in the semis. Ihanaa Leijonat ihanaa indeed.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=1Bhk7ZtGZ3M>

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 15-05-2008 09:50

Four best teams in the semis, which is how it should be. Gritty performance by a US team that is far from the best possible squad (though to be fair, that is also true to some extent for each of the four semi-finalists).

1890, what happened to your boys against the Russians?

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by stefan - 15-05-2008 12:02

Well they had this spectacular goal scored against them.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 15-05-2008 15:54

USA hockey has made some good strides in recent years. They've won junior and under 18 titles and can be routinely counted on not to completely embarrass themselves in any of these senior events. That's a big improvement over where things were a few years ago.

It would have been especially nice to have Rick Diepietro or Ryan Miller in this tournament. They're free, I don't know why they didn't play.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 19-05-2008 11:48

That is a genuinely spectacular own goal; I can't recall ever seeing anything like it.

Did anyone watch the final? Did the Canadians choke in the third period, or were the Russians just better?

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by evilC - 24-05-2008 18:11

Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Finals is on Channel 5 (UK) from 1am tonight, if anyone is interested.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by evilC - 25-05-2008 15:41

Well, that was worthwhile!

Bloody Red Wings. God, I hate them!

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 25-05-2008 15:57

Pittsburgh needs Fleury to be a lot better than that, or it is going to be over rather quickly.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 27-05-2008 02:42

He's keeping them in this. The Penguins look completely outclassed. I predict a sweep.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 27-05-2008 04:32

Spokane Wins, Breaks Memorial Cup

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2cT5J0gxeU>

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 27-05-2008 08:54

To be fair to Fleury, I've only see highlights of Game 1.

And it goes without saying that if the Pens don't score for the entire series, it will hardly be his fault that they lost.

This may be a learning experience for Crosby, Malkin, et al. The difference in experience is striking; one of the guys on HNIC was saying that Chelios had won a Cup before Crosby was born.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 27-05-2008 16:30

I think Chelios was on Montreal's 1986 winner, so that sounds about right.

Some writers are already comparing this Penguins team to the Oilers team that lost to the Islanders in the finals before winning five of the next seven or whatever it was. It was the sunset of one dynasty and the dawn of another.

That's only clear in hindsight, so it's a bit premature to assume the Pens will do the same, but its possible.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 27-05-2008 16:36

The HNIC piece raised the same comparison, but expressly noted that it would be awful hard for the Pens (or anyone else) to match those Oilers.

Game 3 could be very interesting, and even if the Red Wings sweep, it will be interesting to see what they do in the off-season, as this team was very much built to win now.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 27-05-2008 16:41

The Pens should be able to keep their core for at least a few more years.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 27-05-2008 16:45

Agreed.

I was focusing on the Red Wings, who will need to make changes.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 27-05-2008 17:03

Obviously. They're about at the end of the road with this core group, I think. They hardly have anyone under 25.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by evilC - 28-05-2008 16:08

But wasn't everyone predicting a 'long, dark winter of the Red Wings' only a couple of years ago, when they'd lost one generation of veterans and it was unclear whether the incumbents would be able to 'pick up the slack' ...if they stayed around at all. As it is, Zetterberg, Datsyuk et al are doing just fine. (If you're a Red Wings fan, that is - I'm hugely disappointed that they aren't suffering eternal torment in fifth place in the Central!)

It's because of this rather premature revival of the Red Wings non-corpse that I think the Pens aren't going to have things all their own way for the next few years, like the Oilers did.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-05-2008 21:33

That's true, but some of the "parts" (Chelios and Hasek for starters) are clearly well past their sell by date. And Lindstrom, Zetterberg, Datsyuk and Osgood aren't getting any younger. They may win well win this Cup, but I don't see them winning another (or even getting to the Finals) in the next few years.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 28-05-2008 21:40

This series illustrates yet another flaw in Bettmanomics.

We're already hearing mumbling about how horrible this is for the NHL that it's "marquee" star has been shut out.

He's listened too much to everyone who insists that every sport should follow the NBA example and market stars. But hockey doesn't lend itself to that the way basketball does. Even the best players play a little more than a third of the game.

They need to scrap that and follow the NFL route of ginning interest in great teams. Of course, its hard to do that when you've got so many expansion teams in places with no hockey roots.

The Red Wings are a great team.

They also need to find a way to talk up great defensive players like the NFL does. Crosby is struggling, not because he's bad, but because Lindstrom is so good. Indeed, Lindstrom may be the best D player since Bobby Orr but he's not well known outside of dedicated hockey fans and, of course, Detroit.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 28-05-2008 21:52

Lindstrom is without question the best defenceman since Bobby Orr. Sorry, Paul Coffy, Ray Bourque and Denis Potvin, but it isn't really close.

And he is better defensively than Orr was (and I say that as a childhood Bruins fan who absolutely worshipped Orr).

When he hangs them up, I expect Lindstrom to have the best NHL career of any non-North American. It is a privilege to have seen him play (for both Detroit and Sweden).

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 29-05-2008 03:49

The Pens decided to show up. Fantastic.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 29-05-2008 03:58

I didn't know there was an international world ranking but here they are.

<http://www.iihf.com/channels/iihf-world-championship/home/world-ranking.html>

Ireland at #40 with a bullet!!

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by evilC - 02-06-2008 03:14

The Wings pretty much wrap it all up in game 4 and nary a whisper here on the board in 24 hours?

Blimey!

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 03-06-2008 04:19

It's 3-3 in OT. The Pens are hanging on.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Cal - 03-06-2008 04:33

It is always during Stanley Cup time that I appreciate NHL pro hockey as THE toughest professional league in the world.

Not only could the winning teams play over 100 games, but NO shootouts w/ ties -- play till you drop. Anytime there is a soccer PK tiebreaker i cringe in embarrassment as i think of what NHL players go through during cup season. I know 120 minutes of end to end football is excruciating.... but to end w/ a penalty compitions????

I'm pulling for the Pens, but the wings are so tough....

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 03-06-2008 04:51

Yet another inexplicable goalie interference call. That's been called so inconsistently throughout the playoffs. They need to sort that out in the off season.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Cal - 03-06-2008 04:56

yeah, the players knock the crap out of each other for 5 periods and the refs calls two inteference penalties....

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Cal - 03-06-2008 05:13

and yet ANOTHER interference call -- will red wings wrap it up????

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Cal - 03-06-2008 05:48

Sykora - power play goal 10:00 in 3rd OT -- 4-3 Penguins!

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by evilC - 03-06-2008 15:49

Ohmygod, that sounds brilliant! I almost wish I'd stayed up 'til 5am to see that happen.

Game 6 Wednesday. I might try to sleep in the early evening, then get up at 1am to watch it.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 03-06-2008 15:51

I went to bed after the second OT, but couldn't sleep, but when I got up it was over, so I watched the highlights on SportsCenter.

The Penguins have a chance, however slim. Fleury is making lots of saves. I think they ought to be slightly favored to win game 6 at home and then maybe they can get lucky again in game 7.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Coffy - 03-06-2008 16:11

I've seen the Stanley Cup skated around every year since 1973 except once, not counting 2005. So even without a dog in the fight, I had to watch last night; for the OT it was on one of those 4" B&W sets that'll be obsolete in a few months. It's not hooked up to cable, meaning I had to find the best position for it for reception, which turned out to be on my bed, facing the foot. I had to lay across the bottom of the bed, so of course I eventually dozed off but was woken up by Mike Emrick's cry at the winning goal, so I'd have seen the Cup ceremony if it had happened.

I don't know whether to sympathize with or laugh at those Detroit fans who already had their arms raised in victory in the final minute of regulation.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 03-06-2008 16:12

I usually watch that part, but I really don't want Detroit to win so I'll try to avoid it this year.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by evilC - 03-06-2008 17:41

Coffy wrote:

I don't know whether to sympathize with or laugh at those Detroit fans who already had their arms raised in victory in the final minute of regulation.

I'd have loved to have been there and heard the collective "ohh!" when that happened. Mind you, I would have laughed out loud at it and then probably been beaten to death for my trouble.

God, I hate the Wings. They are like Man U and Liverpool combined.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-06-2008 18:09

Clive, please sit down before clicking the following link.

This one's for you.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by evilC - 03-06-2008 18:18

ursus arctos wrote:

Clive, please sit down before clicking the following link.

This one's for you.

Blimey!

That could be a riot ...possibly literally!

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 03-06-2008 18:25

As a Cubs fan, it has occurred to me that it is a diabolical plot by Sam Zell's Tribune Company to destroy Wrigley Field, thus opening the door for a more "revenue enhancing" ballpark.

The sightlines and capacity would be much better at Soldier Field, too.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by evilC - 05-06-2008 09:35

Ugh!

Wings become the first team to ever lift the Stanley Cup in Mellon Arena.

Ugh.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 05-06-2008 18:51

Now that Pittsburgh isn't moving, I can back to poo-pooing the Pens along with saying bully for the Wings.

It's safe to call Detroit not only Hockeytown, but Pennsylvania Killingtown (wiping the floor with Philly and now beating Pitt for the Cup.) It's time that Pennsylvania learns from their superior masters across the Delaware on how to handle Detroit in the Finals (don't worry coffy, only 3 more days of New Jersey Jingoism.)

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Coffy - 05-06-2008 18:54

Are you moving in three days? You need to be packing, not goofing off on the 'net.

Good luck. Mmm, beignets.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 05-06-2008 19:18

Detroit isn't Hockeytown. Detroit isn't even a "town." It's more like an area around where a city used to be.

This is Hockeytown, USA.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by jason voorhees - 05-06-2008 21:54

Aha, that's Hockey Town, not Hockeytown.

I should be packing, but what would life be without goofing off on the internet.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Lyra - 21-07-2008 16:41

I hope this is the right thread on which to say - Sidney Crosby is a bit of all right! Corrr.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ursus arctos - 21-07-2008 17:06

I'm quite surprised that you didn't pick a Swede . . .

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Lyra - 21-07-2008 17:08

Oh I will have to google them.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Sash - 23-07-2008 21:39

ursus arctos wrote:

Did anyone watch the final? Did the Canadians choke in the third period, or were the Russians just better?

I am a newcomer to this board, so this will be a rather late comment. I did watch the final and I have to say that the Russians were magnificent from the 2nd period onwards after being ridiculously nervous in the 1st 20. They methodically (yet furiously) cranked up the pressure until the Canadians broke and what a few minutes for Kovalchuk! A truly wonderful victory.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ad hoc - 24-07-2008 08:55

Can someone in the know tell me about the relative strength of some of the non-NHL US leagues?

My home town teams have both been active in the transfer market and have just acquired a couple of blokes who have previously been active in the ECHL, the AHL, and the UHL.

For example this bloke who seemingly went from team to team in those leagues two or three times a season (and who was born here)

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by ad hoc - 24-07-2008 09:04

Meanwhile, for next season they have decided to go with some kind of Hungarian-Romanian league, the details of which are still a bit sketchy to me. There are 10 teams, 6 from Hungary, 4 from Romania, and the league will run until February, when there will be playoffs and finals and so on between the top four. That's clear enough, but then what happens after that is still vague - the Hungarian league will then go on from that point without the Romanian teams, but with the addition of the first squad of Alba Volan (who will play in Austria as last year). I have no idea whether there'll be any form of Romanian league, what happens to the Romanian clubs that don't play in this HunRom league, and exactly how the Hungarian championship will be organised (as this combo league will count towards it).

I have the feeling that nobody else really knows either.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Amor de Cosmos - 24-07-2008 17:19

The AHL (American Hockey League) is the strongest of the three leagues. It's one step down from the NHL and most, if not all, of its clubs have an affiliation with the NHL ie: they're where younger players and back-ups play. The East Coast Hockey League and the United Hockey League (now the International Hockey League) are more localised. The ECHL is self-explanatory the, IHL teams are centred round the Great Lakes. In a football context, they're division 3-4, while the

AHL is division 2.

=====

Re:Ice Hockey 2007/2008 season

Posted by Reed of the Valley People - 24-07-2008 18:16

Actually, the ECHL is no longer the East Coast Hockey League, but branded simply as the ECHL (like how AARP no longer wants to be called the American Association of Retired People) because it has a whole Western conference with teams in Alaska, Idaho, Phoenix, Utah, Victoria, Stockton, Ontario (CA, I think), Las Vegas, Fresno and Bakersfield. The eastern conference also has some teams that aren't quite so Eastern, like Cincinnati and Toledo.

The ECHL bills itself as the top "AA" league, but unlike in baseball, very few players that have played at the AA level ever make it to the NHL.

In addition to the new IHL (formerly the UHL) there's also the Central Hockey League, which has a bunch of teams in the south central states plus one in Youngstown, Ohio. I think the UHL and CHL are a bit below the ECHL, but it doesn't really matter.

The AHL used to have more Canadian-based teams and was almost exclusively in the Northeast. At the time, it was a direct competitor with the old International League (which, ironically, had only US-based teams). But then the IHL over-extended itself and went under. Many of the more successful IHL teams merged into the AHL and some reemerged in lesser leagues like the ECHL and the CHL.

Then there is the whole world of junior hockey which a lot of Americans think is the same as minor league hockey, but junior players are more or less amateur and younger -15-18, usually, and never older than 21.

In Canada, there are the three Major Junior leagues that make up the CHL, the QMJHL, the OHL and the WHL. Most NHL players come from there. In the US, the top junior league is the USHL. Despite it's national-sounding name, all of the teams are in the prairie states. The difference between the USHL and Canadian junior is that USHL players maintain college eligibility and the whole point of the USHL is to showcase top players so they can get a scholarship and play college hockey and then, maybe, get drafted. Most of the players for the top college programs in the midwest, and west like Minnesota or North Dakota, as well as a lot of players for the eastern schools played in the USHL for a year or two between high school and college.

=====